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THURSDAY, APRIL 5TH, 2012

'NOT A PARTY POLITICAL ISSUE' INSISTS LOCAL TRADER

Campaign to keep cattle market is picking up speed

THE campaign to keep Cowbridge Cattle Market is gathering pace and has now become an issue that has united the town – according to chamber of trade chairman Alun John.

Efforts are now concentrating on changing the Vale Council's Local Development Plan, which currently has earmarked the cattle market for housing – specifically an extra care unit for the elderly.

On Thursday, March 29, Andrew RT Davies AM convened an urgent meeting with stakeholders to discuss the campaign to save Cowbridge Cattle Market.

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

In attendance were representatives from Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Cowbridge and Llanblethian Residents' Group, Cowbridge Charter Trust, Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council and the NFU. Vale MP Alun Cairns was also present.

Mr Davies said: "Cowbridge Cattle Market plays a vital economic role in supporting the local farming community, trading successfully and forming an integral focus point in the centre of what remains an attractive and traditional market town."

Both the Chamber of Trade and the town council agree strongly with this point.

The council has issued a press release in response to the LDP which said: *"The council objects to the loss of the cattle market, not only from a historical point of view, but also that its retention is important in maintaining the identity of Cowbridge as a 'market town'.*

"Equally as important will be the loss of so many car parking spaces."

Alun John told The GEM: "Closing the market will drive business activity out of the Vale, and farmers will be forced to go to either Abergavenny or Carmarthen."

He added that the future of Abergavenny market was in doubt, and said that if it did close, a cattle market in Cowbridge could be in a position to attract extra business.

He added: "Once it closes, it is unlikely that the Vale will get another market, because of the cost of building one."

Mr Davies agreed, saying: "I have concerns that while the draft LDP contains provisions for a new market site, there are no proposals made for the purchase of the site – or indeed its development as a market."

There was universal agreement between the groups that the loss of parking spaces would be very bad for the town.

Mr Davies said: "The site also performs an invaluable economic function for the wider business community, offering car and coach parking for up to 200 spaces on the days when the market is not open.

"This supports the many visitors and shoppers that come to the area, while also serving the staff who work at the numerous retail outlets and businesses in the town centre."

"To lose the market, and therefore the parking facilities, would be a devastating blow to the local community."

The town council agreed, as did Chris Pearce of the residents' group. Mr Pearce put the overall loss of parking spaces at 170, because 30 are due to be created when old sheds adjoining the town walls are knocked down.

ABOVE: Members of groups trying to keep Cowbridge Cattle Market pictured at the meeting called by Andrew RT Davies.

Alun John said that he was aware of restaurants where reservations had been cancelled because the prospective customers had given up trying to find a parking space.

He said that there were signs that the market operators would be offered another 12-month lease, but that this was just a temporary solution.

He felt that giving the site a long-term future could lead to the parking surface being improved – and also the creation of more spaces.

Chris Pearce said that the residents' group had identified two sites that they felt were suitable for housing for the elderly.

He said: "The sixth form building on Aberthin Road is one possible site. It is as near to the town hall as the cattle market, and the Vale Council recently laid a wide, smooth footpath that goes into town and is traffic free.

"The building is not listed, so the area could be demolished and developed as housing for the elderly."

He continued: "Even more suitable would be the lower school site on Town Mill Road.

"We are aware the the Vale Council has sold this to Taylor Wimpey for housing, subject to the granting of planning permission.

"However, the council could refuse planning permission, forcing prospective purchasers to rethink."

Alun John added: "I know that at least 70 chamber of trade members have made their own representations to the Vale Council.

"What pleases us is that this has become a non political issue with 'cross party' support in the town."

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TOWN COUNCIL MAKES AN OFFICIAL 'LDP' RESPONSE

COWBRIDGE with Llanblethian Town Council has made its official response to the Vale Council's draft Local Development Plan (LDP).

Councillors have come out against a number of LDP designations. *These include:*

• The candidate site identified as land adjoining Court Close, Aberthin, because of the impact that it will have on an already busy main road and which has already been identified as having a speeding problem.

• The candidate site of land adjoining St Athan Road. The council is strongly of the opinion that before the site is put forward for residential development, further feasibility studies and surveys should be carried out to identify the impact that such a development will have on the infrastructure of the town such as increased volume of traffic, parking, which is already a considerable problem, and schools.

• With regard to the former Cowbridge Comprehensive sixth form block on Aberthin Road, the council would like it to be retained for that purpose, as there is no sixth form facility in the new school.

The council response said: "Students of the sixth form have no alternative but to leave the school premises during the lunch time period – which the majority appear to do."

• The council also looked at the 'green open spaces' in the town, specifically the 'Cricket Field' and 'Rugby Field'.

It believes that these must be preserved for the benefit of the local community at all costs – and strongly opposes either site being put forward as alternative candidate sites for residential development.

OLD SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

THE GEM currently has in its possession two old Cowbridge Grammar School photographs – both from the 1930s.

They were handed into The GEM office, having been found in Aberthin Road.

The owner can contact The GEM on 01446 774484.

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

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'LDP does not apply the right tests'

I AM well aware of the considerable concerns felt by local residents living in both the Swanbridge and Lavernock Park areas, over the draft Local Development Plan.

The LDP requires every local council in Wales to identify land for housebuilding for the next 15-year period, and to allow "candidate sites" to be put forward by land owners, for consideration in this process.

Naturally, every potential developer, as well as the Welsh Government itself, which owns around 340 acres of former WDA land at Lavernock, wants a slice of the action (as well as a share of the profits), if they can obtain approval for development.

Each site has had to pass certain "tests", which are relatively easy to satisfy by meeting simple criteria such as a nearby school or a shop, and preferably being within a mile or so of public transport.

What they do NOT have to satisfy in the assessment is the capacity of the local highway network to carry hundreds of additional vehicles on already overloaded roads; the fact that no additional bypasses or traffic management facilities would need to be provided, and the sheer weight of traffic that already, let alone in the future, currently clogs up through routes to work, during peak hours.

Additionally, none of this takes into account the fact that, in the case of both Lavernock and Sully, local schools are already at capacity and are unable to take additional pupils; that sensitive areas of wildlife and protected coast are under threat from this type of large scale development (an additional 1,100 houses) at the two sites; and the fact that countryside which has previously been protected as "green wedge" will no longer carry this valued status.

It is not widely known that the fate of these two pleasant areas of countryside will be decided by one person – an unknown appointed inspector – who will have the final say on the plan, once sent forwards for approval, by the planners, in a few months time.

I feel very much for all those residents threatened by this huge scale of unwanted development, which has taken them by surprise, and I for one will be offering them my full support in the coming weeks, and months, in re-shaping the misguided proposals that seek to dump a vast number of new houses into the south-east of the Vale.

Anthony M Ernest,
Sully ward – Vale Council.

'Vale cabinet system works against Barry'

IN last week's local press, Vale cabinet member, Jeff James, said he wanted local people to comment on the proposed Local Development Plan – the plan that will approve 10,000 more homes in the Vale without any significant road or public transport improvements.

Yes, of course more homes are needed, but too many are planned for Barry without the infrastructure to support them.

That is because critical decisions are made about what happens in Barry by councillors who don't live in the town – and whose main aim is to prevent development in the more rural areas of the Vale; the very areas they represent.

We have a cabinet system in the Vale. Of the 10 members of that cabinet, only two are Barry councillors. And yet Barry has 40 per cent of the Vale's population! So Barry is woefully under-represented on the Vale cabinet. It's not simply disgraceful, it's a scandal, allowing councillors who don't live in our town to do what they like to our patch, while at the same time protecting their own interests.

Like many others, I've visited the Vale of Glamorgan Council website to make comments on the plan. But Councillor James, how do you expect people to make sensible comments or suggestions when it is almost impossible to navigate this excuse for a website?

It seems designed to ensure that as few people as possible are able to make their views known.

Is this deliberate – or simply another demonstration of civic incompetence?

Quite simply, the council is seeking to prevent people making their views known – online, at least.

The inspector who finally 'signs off' the LDP after the consultation period should have his or her attention drawn to this fact, because if the public are unable to access the information required, then the council could, with solid justification, be guilty of failing to properly carry out the public consultation which legislation obliges them to undertake.

Derek Hooper,
Barry

GEM NOTE: What do GEM readers think? Have you been able to navigate the council website, or have you faced problems? Let us know at gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Development plan: time too short

THE Local Development Plan is supposed to be ready for consultation, which ended on March 31.

It has lasted only six weeks, far too short to allow residents to get to grips with this mass of information hidden in jargon and many thousands of pages.

This exercise is completely inadequate to allow the residents of the Vale to get know, understand, ask questions and make responses to the LDP.

There is no presentation in the Central Barry Library, the most obvious place where Barry people need it – there are merely several very heavy piles and files of documents, none of which is laid out.

There is no explanation provided.

At the Dock Office, the situation is hardly better; the presentation is on boards in the dark corners of the hall, not even one room is used to display them.

There is no publication for visitors to take away to study; the map of proposals may be bought but will cost £15 a copy, a prohibitive price. Visitors are, I suppose, expected to rely on using their computers; that is not fair and it is not good access, nor transparent.

What is apparent to me, from asking questions only, is that there are no proposals to improve traffic flows for any vehicles other than cycles – and only one proposal for improving bus flow, at the Merry Harrier junction.

Paths for pedestrians predominate. Where are the improvements to help thousands of people who commute to Cardiff every day, or the lorries that need to get to the M4 ?

It appears the council prefers to do nothing, let traffic jams clog the roads, making people use unclassified roads to get round queues at junctions on the very few main roads that Vale/Barry residents can use – and force everyone onto buses or trains.

If that's the plan, the council should say so, and let us comment on that!

Michael Thomas,
Dinas Powys.

'Town hall parking should be charged'

ALMOST weekly there are letters to The GEM regarding the lack of car parking in Cowbridge.

On any given day (apart from Sunday), there are in excess of 400 cars parked in the town, along the roads, in the town hall car park and in the various sites near the cattle market, some of which are full by 9am.

Where are all these people? They cannot all be working in the shops and offices.

On most mornings, the High Street has very few shoppers.

Commonsense, and indeed common knowledge, tells us that most of the occupants of the cars in the town hall car park leave their cars all day and accept lifts to either Bridgend or Cardiff.

There seems little doubt that this has a detrimental effect on the number of visitors to the town. They cannot park, so go elsewhere.

Surely this should now be a pay car park?

The situation is about to become worse. Developing the cattle market will lose upwards of 100 parking spaces, while adding to the number of cars, and the old grammar school site in Town Mill Road will, we are told, generate a further 40 cars.

With parking already allowed in Town Mill Road, chaos may ensure and add to the already difficult access to the estates south of the town walls.

Great care will need to be taken by the new Waitrose car park, or the use of its 138 spaces will be abused, as are the disabled spaces outside Tesco (my perennial grouse!)

Quite apart from selfish, able-bodied people, why are trade vehicles allowed to occupy these spaces for hours on end? Surely our police and PCSOs can put a stop to this?

Have these issues been thought through?

D W Gerrard,
Cowbridge.

Why does Vale miss out?

THE GEM recently reported on the allocation of funding from the Welsh Government to the Vale of Glamorgan and other councils in our region.

I just cannot understand why the Vale receives such a poor deal from the Welsh Government, particularly, as our own local Assembly Member for the Vale is the Finance Minister.

I can appreciate and accept that a case could be made that some valley communities need support, but we also have some of the poorest wards in Wales, here in Barry.

As was highlighted in the article featured in The GEM, it costs the same to fill a pothole or resurface a road in the Vale as it does in Rhondda Cynon Taff, so why the disparity in funding levels?

The greatest insult, however, came when I read that Cardiff, with all its business prosperity and Cardiff Bay investment gets £77 more per person than the Vale – that would amount to an extra £9.6million per year to the Vale Council.

I hope Ms Hutt could explain this position. If my memory serves me correctly, this sort of shortfall has been going on for the last 10 years or so.

Gillian Bruce,
Barry.

Chancellor's Budget 'was for the rich'

MP ALUN CAIRNS' article in last week's GEM was party-political, but short on all the facts.

The £5.30 pension increase for some, but not all pensioners, was because of high inflation.

Lowering corporation tax benefits banks and big business; paying less tax on their profits means they can pay bigger bonuses and increased dividends to share holders.

Does he really believe that cutting the top rate of income tax from 50p to 45p will mean that all those who avoided paying 50p will rush to pay 45p?

It was a budget for the rich. It won't do anything to bring down the 17-year-high unemployment rate, or give help or hope to more than one million young people without work.

Recently, he praised the Government for not increasing fuel duty. With petrol and diesel at a record high price and a 3p per litre duty increase planned for August, will he condemn this duty rise when it happens?

G Smith,
Llantwit Major

'YOUR CHANCE TO PLAY YOUR PART'

A RECENT BBC poll revealed that 64 per cent were in favour of the Welsh Government having powers to vary taxes in Wales.

A similar poll, which our Commission ran with ICM research, showed 66 per cent were in favour of the Welsh Government being able to borrow money to spend on capital projects such as building roads and hospitals.

These are the areas our Commission is looking at this year and we want to hear the views of as many people across Wales on them.

Do you agree with these opinion polls or do you have differing views?

We are visiting every local authority area in Wales to hear the thoughts of the people on these important issues. As part of this, on April 17, we will be in Cowbridge and Bridgend and want to hear your views.

We will be holding a coffee morning drop in session at Cowbridge Town Hall at 10am, and then in the afternoon we will be at Heronston Hotel in Bridgend between 2.30pm and 3.30pm where you can come and give formal evidence to us.

What we recommend this autumn will have an impact on every community in Wales.

Take the opportunity to come along to find out more about our work and to have your say.

This is your chance to play your part in ensuring Wales has the right powers for the future.

Paul Silk
Chair, Commission on Devolution in Wales.

Roundabout needed, NOT traffic lights

WHY spend £600,000 in these days of austerity to install traffic lights on the Docks Link Road, when a simple roundabout costing much less would keep traffic flowing?

The roundabout at Lidl and the one near McDonalds work perfectly well and the latter feeds off Cardiff Road which, even though it can be very busy at times, does not cause standing traffic.

Lights at the Docks Link Road junction would cause standing traffic, plus we would have to put up with endless disruption and roadworks, all to possibly little or no avail.

ML Healey, Barry.

IS THERE AN ISSUE IN THE VALE THAT YOU FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT?

If so, let us know at:
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL12)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
05 Thur	06.59	9.4	19.24	9.6
06 Fri	07.43	10.1	20.09	10.2
07 Sat	08.29	10.4	20.53	10.4
08 Sun	09.13	10.6	21.36	10.4
09 Mon	09.59	10.4	22.21	10.3
10 Tues	10.42	10.0	23.02	9.8
11 Wed	11.27	9.6	23.49	9.4
12 Thur			12.16	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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LETTERS EXTRA

MORE HOUSING IS PLANNED FOR COWBRIDGE, BUT CAN TOWN COPE?

Local housing could lead to 'a lose-lose outcome'

TWO reports from 2007 outline a number of arguments against developments in the rural areas around Cowbridge.

One was based on a meeting of council officers – possibly the same officers who have helped formulate the current controversial plans to build 100 houses on the St Athan fields.

The second contains views from 'stakeholders' in the Vale – including local councils, emergency services, Environment Agency Wales, the Farmers' Union of Wales, and youth, citizen and countryside groups.

Their conclusions seem straightforward. The stakeholders had strong reservations about developing rural areas around Cowbridge and St Athan, while the council officers concluded that "the disadvantages associated with this option were considered to far outweigh the advantages".

What has happened since then, apart from the relaxing of certain planning rules, to render these conclusions less valid now?

Both reports express concern over how schools, transport and other services would have to expand to cater for incoming residents.

Maintaining small, localised facilities had been tried in the past, one notes, but the cost had proved "excessive".

The schools in Cowbridge have not yet been consulted over how they are to absorb extra pupils and, while the plans include "realigning" St Athan Road, they do not show how a major bottleneck is to be prevented at the crossroads with Eastgate.

The ongoing debate over parking spaces is another symptom of the lack of transport planning. The stakeholders' report emphasises that new residents would need employment.

But there has been no obvious increase in job opportunities, on the scale needed, within Cowbridge; while the council officers' report suggests that increased commuting to Cardiff would exacerbate congestion and harm landscapes.

Both reports point out that creating new urban areas in the Vale might lead to stagnation and decline elsewhere.

Cowbridge is a prosperous town; it is hard to see how it could benefit from any investments arising from this development.

But developing Cowbridge, for little perceived benefit, might funnel money away from existing urban areas that really do need investment.

Given the opposition among Cowbridge residents to the plan, this seems like a lose-lose outcome.

New housing rules, by themselves, do not constitute a reason to ignore other factors.

I hope these two reports will be revisited by the Vale Council – and that, in particular, it will listen to its own officers' former conclusions.

Catrin Thomas-Price,
(Keep Our Cowbridge Countryside)

Y Bont Faen does Strictly!

THE reception class at Y Bont Faen Primary have been acting out the story of Cinderella for the last few weeks.

To make it very realistic they had a fun-filled day ballroom dancing and having an banquet.

They had been practising their ballroom dancing for the last few weeks and would now put many of the stars to shame.

They had made their own crown, tiara, necklace or mask and all looked incredibly gorgeous. Obviously after all that exercise they needed to refuel and were treated to a three course meal washed down with plenty of 'red wine' and 'champagne'!

BBC visit school

OUR year-6 children, following on from their visit to The GEM, got a chance to interview two famous reporters from the BBC – Lucy and Rhodri Owen.

The class had prepared some interesting questions for the broadcasters, who were more than happy to share their insight and knowledge with the class.

It seems that several of the Y Bont Faen pupils are desperate to become broadcasters themselves following this visit.

The whole school would like to say a massive *diolch* to Lucy and Rhodri for giving up their time to visit, and for their amazing answers.

Internet safety

AS part of the Y Bont Faen commitment to safeguarding, the parents and concerned family members, were invited into school to learn about how to keep their children safe while on line and on their mobile phones.

Mr Griffiths gave everyone who attended a booklet, detailing how to turn on parental controls and turn off certain smart phone features.

If you would like a copy, then visit the school website www.ybontfaen.com and download a copy from 'School Letters'.

JM

ENJOYING (A SUNNY) PALM SUNDAY!

ABOVE: Palm Sunday in Cowbridge. (See page 4 for more photographs).

Georgia (three) enjoys the warm spring weather!

THIS picture, taken by Mrs CJ Pritchard of Cowbridge, shows her daughter, Georgia, enjoying the spring daffodils and summer weather in Cowbridge Town Centre over the weekend.

We're missing that sunshine already!

Rotary Club's Fun Walk

THE Rotary Club of Cowbridge would like to remind GEM readers about its charity fun walk on Sunday, April 22.

Walkers are invited to raise money for their favourite charity and enjoy an enjoyable walk in the beautiful Vale.

The route begins at Cowbridge Town Hall (start time between 10am and 1pm) and proceeds via 'The Three Fields' and 'Trevor's Field' to The Bush Inn at St Hilary, returning via 'The Hanging Clump' to the Town Hall car park.

The walk is about five miles and should take about two hours.

The route is suitable for all adults but is not recommended for pushchairs or small children.

Adults pay an entry fee of £5 (schoolchildren £1), which will go to Rotary charities.

All walkers will receive an entry pack which will include a map, sponsorship forms and further details.

Entry forms can be obtained from Rotarian Harry Heller, telephone 01446 775393.

NB

PHYSIC GARDEN'S ANNUAL PLANT SALE

THE Cowbridge Physic Garden stages its annual plant sale in Old Hall Grounds (10am-3pm) on Saturday, April 28 .

There will be plenty of expert advice from the growers whose plants will be on offer, together with a raffle to help with fund-raising.

Garden chairman, Dan Clayton-Jones said: "Public support for this event is absolutely crucial. The whole enterprise is run and organised by volunteers who give up their time willingly to ensure that the Physic Garden remains right at the heart of Cowbridge life.

"Come along and enjoy the day with us – bring some friends and buy some plants. You'll be doing us proud if you can support us."

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Cowbridge and District Bridge Club results

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club, Pairs Trophy (first round, Monday, March 19, 22 pairs):

First, Mike Best and Kevin Maddox, 68.70 per cent; Second, Trish Tracy and Tony Ratcliff, 67.55; Third, Liam Sheridan and David Birt, 65.80; Fourth, Alan Lewis and Terry Evans, 59.02; Fifth, Sue Norris and Sue Summerhayes, 56.07; John Henson and Geoff Tinkler, 55.14.

Please note that the club will be closed on Easter Monday, April 9.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club, Llanbleddian, club night, Tuesday, March 20, 13 pairs:

First, Mary Thomas and Dennis Barker, 64.29 per cent; Second, Anne Hughes and Teri Pollard, 58.89; Third, Mary Wallis and Myrtle Hansard, 58.33 per cent; Fourth, Amy Owen and Glenda Roberts, 56.67; Fifth, Pam Higgs and Brenda Grove, 54.76; Sixth, Barbara and Colin Easterbrook, 51.67.

Monday March 26: Second round of the Club Trophy, 18 pairs: First – John Beard and Liam Sheridan 69.64 per cent; Second – John Evans and Steve Burgoyne, 67.26 per cent; Third – Mike Best and Kevin Maddox, 66.77 per cent; Fourth – Marion and David Stephenson 61.90 per cent; Fifth – Dennis Smith and Barbara Easterbrook, 54.46 per cent. Sixth – Sue Norris and Sue Summerhayes 52.68 per cent.

Please note the AGM will take place on Monday April 16 at 7pm.

Any items members wish to raise will be dealt with under any other business.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club (Llanbleddian), Tuesday March 27: club night: First – Mary Thomas and Dennis Barker, 57 per cent; Second – Helen and Mike Ruttley, 56.67 per cent; Third – Anne Thomas and Anne Williams, 56.11 per cent; Fourth – Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear, 55.99 per cent; Fifth – Sara Bartlett and Sylvia Phillips, 53.33 per cent; Sixth – Amy Owen and Glenda Roberts 52.78 per cent.

BRIAN SWAIN

Society hosts lecture on 'housing'

COWBRIDGE and District Local History Society's next lecture will be held on April 13 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

It is entitled: 'Housing in Cowbridge since 1918: part one – patterns and processes', and will be given by Dick Buswell.

Notice will be given at this meeting of a special general meeting of the society to be held on May 4.

Old Hall Bridge

OLD HALL results for March were as follows:

March 7: First, Mike Best and Liam Sheridan; Second, Sue and Graham Norris.

March 14: First, Amy Owen and Debbie Rosevear; Second, Teri Pollard and Judith Nunn.

March 21: First, Barbara Easterbrook and Adrian Thomas; Second, David Stephenson and Graham Norris.

March 28: First, Sara Bartlett and Ian Dunglinson; Second, Teri Pollard and Judith Nunn.

Old Hall will not be open for bridge on April 11 (Easter week).

SB

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Churches celebrate Palm Sunday in Cowbridge

COWBRIDGE churches continued their now well-established tradition of a Palm Sunday procession on a day when the sun shone brightly.

As in recent years, the procession featured a real live donkey. In fact, this year there were two – something that delighted the children who were keen to get a closer look.

Photographs by MIKE WILCOCK

BELOW: Father Edmund Neizer of the parish of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge.

MEAL FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Jane Platts together with Thelma Whiting, Eve Morgan, Carol Stuart-Torrie and Valerie Morgan.

Community lunch at Bonvilston

ON Thursday, March 29, the Red Lion in Bonvilston hosted the annual community lunch, with 30 senior residents enjoying an excellent meal, through funds provided by the St Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council.

The event,organised by Gill Rawson and Paul Fisher, community councillors, was a wonderful opportunity for villagers to meet and catch up on local news.

Jane Platts, the 'Rural Connections' co-ordinator from Age Concern, also attended and spent time talking to the group about what events they would be interested in attending, with a view to future gatherings in the Reading Room.

On behalf of all who attended we would like to thank Phil, the landlord of the Red Lion, and his staff for the excellent lunch and service. PF

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

IT is sad to report the death of Margaret Howells (nee Morgan) aged 89 years, late of Sealands Farm, where she lived with husband Elwyn.

She was born at Penwchadre Farm, St Brides Major, the twin sister of William Morgan to one of the oldest families in the village, faithful members of Brynsion Chapel, Penylan Road, where Margaret played the organ in her younger days.

She had one daughter, Catherine, and lived in latter years with her in Talgarth. Condolences to the family.

Library opens

THE opening of the St Brides Major Community Link library took place on Saturday, March 17 at the church hall, St Brides Major, during the monthly local produce market and craft fayre.

It was opened by the Venerable Philip Morris, Archdeacon of Margam and priest in charge of the parish of St Brides Major.

Also attending were civic dignitaries with local MP Alun Cairns, AMs Jane Hutt and Andrew R T Davies, Gordon Kemp, Leader of the Vale Council, Audrey Preston, representing the Mayor, and local community councillors Adrian and Meryl James.

The library is to be run by a team of volunteers who signed up 44 individuals and families on the day of opening and the following Saturday, more were signed up for membership.

Books are being supplied by the Vale Library Service and it will be open five hours a week – Wednesday 3.15pm-4.14pm and 5pm-7pm, and again on Saturday from 10am-12pm, when a cup of tea/coffee will be available during the parish tea and chat morning.

Congratulations

TWO of our local beaches have received awards for cleanliness from Keep Wales Tidy.

Southerndown won the seaside award for attaining the European Union standard of bathing water and beach management, while Ogmore-by-Sea achieved the green coast award for its environmental standards and top quality bathing water.

Dog fouling

THIS is still causing a problem in the area. From May until September, dogs will not be allowed on some beaches in the Vale, including Southerdown.

Dog mess can be cleaned up easily using a plastic bag.

Further information can be obtained on 02920 673000.

NEWS FROM COWBRIDGE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Stephen's antique kitchen gadgets

STEPHEN Jarvis was the speaker at the March meeting, and he came armed with various kitchen implements ranging from jelly moulds, antique hand mixers, an early form of milk bottle cooler and one pan which must have escaped the call for all metal pots and pans during World War Two to help the war effort by going towards making Spitfires.

It certainly intrigued the members, until Stephen put everyone out of their misery by stating it was for boiling eggs – when the spout on the lid whistled the four-and-a-half minutes were up.

It was a very informative afternoon, with Stephen outlining how food produce in the olden days was kept with the use of ice houses, some of which are still visible today; one, in fact, on the Dunraven Estate.

We also heard the history of how the Kenwood Mixers started. Time certainly flew by, and then it was time for afternoon tea and cakes and Stephen and his colleague sat down with the members for a well-earned cup of tea.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month, so if you or someone you know would like to join (transport provided) telephone 01656 668446.

Pat Smith

COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Car park

FOLLOWING the months of negotiations, work on the proposed car park for the Llangan school is due to start in the next two weeks.

The field is a gift to the school from Dr John Homfray of Penllyn.

Headteacher Mary Noyes has worked tirelessly for the much-needed car parking facility.

The road has been a constant concern to the teaching staff at the school regarding the safety of the children.

Concert fundraiser

THE recently held concert in Saron Chapel, Treoes, raised £760 for this year's National Eisteddfod.

A donation of £76 was awarded to Saron.

Continuing the fundraising, a concert will take place in the Treoes Community Hall on Tuesday, April 24 at 7.30pm.

The entertainment will be provided by the vocal ensemble 'Bella Donna'. Once again, tickets can be obtained from Mary Crandon on 01656 861933; the cost £5 per ticket.

Holy Week

MAUNDY Thursday, at St Crallo's, Coychurch: Commemoration of the Lord's Last Supper. Watch in the garden until midnight, or for however long you wish.

Good Friday, at St Crallo's: 10am service for children, 1pm-2pm preaching of the Passion, 2pm-3pm, liturgy of the Passion.

Easter Day: Dawn service at St Mary Hill Church at 5.30am with breakfast; 10am, Benefice festival Eucharist, St Crallo's, Coychurch; St Canna's, Llangan; 6pm, songs of praise.

ST CANNA'S Church, Llangan: Second Sunday of the month, 11.15am Holy Eucharist; Fourth Sunday of the month, 11.15am, informal family service.

St Mary Hill Church: First and third Sundays of the month, 11.15am, Holy Eucharist.

CHORAL EVENING

A CHORAL evening at St Donat's Castle (Bradenstoke Hall) in aid of the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod on April 27 at 7.30pm, features Dowlais Male Voice Choir.

Also appearing are Gower College Swansea Ensemble and Daisy Evans, soprano, with Sian Evans (BBC Radio) as compere.

Tickets £15 available from: Arthur John Stores, High Street, Cowbridge; Spar Stores, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major; Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg or telephone 01446 772333.

Busy Easter at Y Bont Faen

PUPILS at Y Bont Faen Primary School,Cowbridge, recently had a special time with both PTA Easter celebrations and a belated sponsored Sport Relief Mile.

Jayne Morris reports: The year-6 pupils did a sterling job, guiding the younger pupils around the mile long course – they were even accompanied by three members of the Jamaican bobsleigh team AKA Sam, Ed and Tom!

They even treated us to a sled run down the school banks much to everyone's amusement!

The children came dressed up as famous sports stars and some not so famous sports stars. They had a great deal of fun and raised nearly £800, with the promise of more to follow!

The PTA also organised the 'Egg Extravaganza' Olympic event – an egg rolling championship! Everyone from nursery, aided by year-6, took part in the egg rolling event down the Tir Glas hill.

The eggs had been decorated and judged the day before by our resident artist Mr Lloyd. There were amazing likenesses of HRH The Queen, Captain Jack Sparrow, a Dalek and many more!

Two little lambs from Ty Medi farm were bought in to enhance the children's outdoor learning this term by assistant head Mrs Adams.

Year 4 enjoyed a visit to the farm last Wednesday where they fed the lambs and then Mrs Adams led them on a treasure hunt!

The ECO council also awarded two prizes for the childrens recycling efforts to James Dennis and Rhys Prichard.

Mr Lloyd has been enjoying this term. Inspired by his visit to New york he has put on a fantastic display of recycled yoghurt pots. He saw an exhibition by Gwyneth Leech and thought he would recreate it in school!

The children's version is displayed in the school corridors and is ECO friendly! Mr Lloyd also got all the children from year-1 to year-6 to send their self portraits into the Face Britain Challenge run by the Prince's Trust.

They are trying to get a Guinness World record for the largest portrait to be made from other pictures. If successful, the image will be displayed on the outside of Buckingham Palace for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee!

The children were invited to enter a Royal Mint competition to design a poster for their new commemorative Jubilee Medal -

His year-6 pupil Ffion McNamee won the competition, and her whole class will be presented with Jubilee medals!

Fox spins yarn to NFU Ladies

A MEETING of the Vale NFU Ladies was held in Penllyn Hall on March 20, led by the new chairperson, Mrs Janet Lewis.

A very interesting talk and demonstration was given by Mrs Ann Fox on 'spinning'.

We were shown different types of wool from different breeds of sheep and she emphasised the value of natural wools produced by local farmers. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs Tina Wride.

The next meeting is on April 17. **JS**

Wool talk for the Weavers

THE next meeting of the Glamorgan Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will be held on Thursday April 12 at Kynance Hall, Dinas Powys at 7.30pm.

Gareth Jones, from the British Wool Marketing Board, will give a presentation on the BWMB's role and activities, market situation and the Campaign for Wool.

Tickets are £2 for members £5 for visitors. For further details call Kirsten Gable on 01443 650336 or email kirstengable@gmail.com

Jumble sale

LLANCARFAN Tuesday Club is holding a jumble sale in aid of local charities on Saturday, April 14 at 1.30pm in the village hall at Llancarfan.

Pencoed man is fined after his company ceased trading

Report by AJ SICLUNA

A BUSINESSMAN who was once the proprietor of a company selling window shutters, has been fined £1,750 and ordered to pay costs of £1,500 at Cardiff Crown Court.

Paul Whitehead (50), a man with no previous convictions, of Heol Maes-yr-Haf, Pencoed, who owned Inner Shade (of Wales) Limited, pleaded guilty to making a misleading omission and falsely stating the company was approved by the Guild of Master Craftsmen.

The company also admitted making a misleading omission and was fined £100.

Whitehead was disqualified from being a company director for two years.

Judge Neil Bidder said: "Consumer regulations are very important to prevent reckless trading.

"You had intended to run a decent business, but you received some poor advice. You are a decent family man."

He added: "You need to think very carefully before you embark upon running a company."

Prosecutor Lee Bowyer, acting for Bridgend Trading Standards, said the company had offered the installation of window shutters to Mrs Danielle Beck of Torfaen, who had contacted the company in 2010.

The defendant provided a quotation of £3,272.

But, said Mr Bowyer, she was not informed she had a right to cancel the contract within a certain period.

However, a few days after being given the quotation, she said she wanted the company to go ahead and was asked for a 50 per cent deposit, because the blinds were "uniquely made".

The payment was duly made, but she became concerned at the lack of contact with the defendant.

In August, she called him and he said he had suffered a family bereavement.

She was later unable to contact him again, and eventually got in touch via an answering machine, after which she called Consumer Direct Wales.

She later received correspondence saying the company had no funds and had ceased trading.

At that point, Bridgend Trading Standards began an investigation.

They discovered that the company at the time was not approved by the Guild of Master Craftsmen.

Whitehead later said the company had gone down because of lack of orders and cash flow problems, and the blinds which had been ordered had not been made.

The court was told that Whitehead later said that he was "robbing Peter to pay Paul".

Many customers, said Mr Bowyer, had been refunded payments.

Whitehead's counsel, Alex Greenwood said: "He is a man of impeccable character. He decided to set up on his own in business but the recession started to bite and it failed."

He had even sought advice from the Welsh Assembly Government, as he attempted to deal with an escalating situation.

At the time, there were family problems, with one member terminally ill, and in 2010, the business ceased.

"Sadly, he let matters get on top of him," said Mr Greenwood.

The court heard that he now works as an aircraft fitter.

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TRACTOR BOYS OF ABERTHIN TRAVEL RURAL VALE IN BOOST FOR TY HAFAN

THE 'Tractor Boys of Aberthin', in association with the Blacksmiths Arms, Llanmaes, held what has become an annual event – a vintage tractor run in aid of Ty Hafan.

Participants travelled from far and wide to support this very worthy cause, which was much appreciated by the run organisers.

The run was staged on Sunday, March 25 with over 36 vintage tractor entries leaving Arthur John's car park in Cowbridge at 10.30am.

The convoy headed towards Aberthin at a brisk 15mph before moving on to take in other villages in the Vale to include Welsh St Donats, Clawdd Coch, Pendoylan, Duffryn, Moulton, Llancarfan and Llantrithyd, finally arriving at the Blacksmiths Arms for a long-anticipated lunch break.

The convoy then made tracks back to Cowbridge via Sigingstone, Llanmihangel and Llanblethian.

A total distance of 30 miles was covered, raising £605.57 for Ty Hafan.

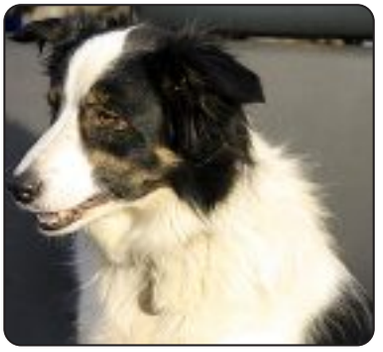
Many thanks to Mr D John and family for the use of their car park and to Mike, Jackie, and Russell of the Blacksmiths Arms for their hospitality and to all those who contributed to the sum raised.

MH

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 07791 228684.
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



'SHIP'S COMPANY GIVEN FREEDOM AWARD'

HMS Cambria's day of honour

The 'freedom' march through Barry – PHOTOGRAPH by JOHN O'BEIRNE

by TIM CHAPMAN

THE centre of Barry came to a standstill on Saturday (March 31) as HMS Cambria was granted the freedom of the Vale by the county borough council.

People crowded on pavements and stood around the perimeter of King Square to get a view of the ceremony and to honour the ship's company.

At 11am, the Royal Marines band led the march from Wyndham Street car park and the parade took up position in the square.

Lt Cdr Gary McKenzie then invited the Mayor of the Vale, Coun John Clifford, and the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Peter Beck, to inspect the ship's company which is based in Sully.

Following a prayer by the Rev Huw Butler, the Mayor of the Vale offered the 'honorary freedom of the county borough' by presenting Commander Neil Pugh, the current commander of HMS Cambria, with a special scroll.

'GREAT PRIDE'

Commander Pugh said: "It is a matter of great pride that the reservists are able to serve in and for their home county and we are extremely pleased to have been given this honour."

The Mayor, Coun John Clifford told The GEM: "I was thrilled to see so many people around King Square – there must have been 2,000 or more.

"The event was 12 months in the planning and was a fantastic day.

"The scroll mentions the achievements of HMS Cambria and its devoted service and it was an honour to present it to them.

"I want to thank the people who helped to organise the event and the people of the Vale for attending it."

The parade went through the town – down Holton Road, and along Thompson Street and Greenwood Street.

Keep an eye out next week for pictures of HMS Cambria's special day.

VALE'S MARIA IS SIBERIAN BLACK ICE ADVENTURER!

VALE adventurer Maria Leijerstam has become the first woman to complete the Siberian Black Ice Race along the length of Lake Baikal.

She was second to a local Russian cyclecross champion and out of 20 starters, one of only eight to finish.

"I was nervous before the race," said Maria, "but having now completed it I'm even more nervous about the consequences of racing on ice."

Due to the unusually high day time temperatures the ice had already begun to crack and so cycling on the ice was not just a matter of fitness, it also meant being very lucky to avoid open water which would have lightly re-frozen at night as temperatures dipped down to -27 degrees.

Many other competitors succumbed to the extreme conditions through frost bite, fatigue, a fall through the ice and one team even managed to burn down their tent.

It took Maria only seven days and four hours to complete the race, covering about 900km as she weaved her way around huge sastrugi ice fields and deep snow.

"On a few days, the wind was so fierce that I simply could not stay on the bike as it was blown from underneath me." said Maria.

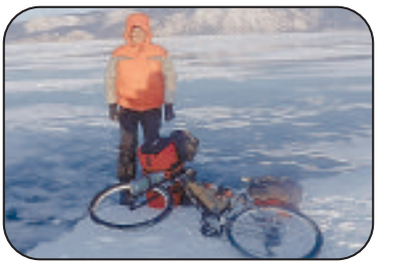
"On other days I was having to work really hard as I peddled through deep snow fields. Only occasionally I was able to enjoy a tail wind on pure unbroken ice. It was a race of massive extremes.

"Everything freezes, so I slept on the ice with everything in my sleeping bag. I had batteries, toothpaste and wet wipes stuffed in my underwear and all water was kept near to my body."

One day Maria took a brief involuntary dip as her front wheel sank right down and she flew over the handlebars. "It took me four hours that evening to dry off next to my stove," she explained.

"Lake Baikal, known as the Pearl of Siberia, is a beautiful place but now I have completed both The Siberian Black Ice Race 2012 and the warm challenge of the Marathon Des Sables in 2007, I'm ready for more," said Maria.

Maria helps to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society through her races. Visit www.justgiving.com/leijerstam to donate.



Maria at Lake Baikal.

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VALEWAYS' SPRING WALKS

THE days are getting longer and with this early spring, there is no better time to get out and walk in the beautiful Vale countryside.

The April-June programme is now available, with something for everyone from a gentle stroll with the 'coffee shop strollers', the popular 60-90 minute walks or explore with experienced leaders on a half-day walk.

Also, there is the Welsh Walking Group. If you are a complete beginner or a Welsh speaker, come and practice and enjoy the 'great outdoors'.

The Vale Walking Festival, takes place from May 11-13. This three-day event looks better than ever, with 20 walks scheduled.

Valeways supporting 'Walking Tourism'.Further details at www.valeways.org.uk.

VW

Super run for GLAZE charity!

A SENIOR South Wales police officer donned his running shoes on Monday – to raise money for GLAZE Prostate Charity Wales.

Paul James, Superintendent for Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan, took to the hills, tracks and puddles of the Forest of Dean to run the renowned half marathon for the charity.

The gruelling cross terrain run saw nearly 3,000 runners take to the track on Sunday morning at Speech House, Gloucestershire.

Supt James, who has served in the Bridgend and Vale area since 1994, ran on behalf of the Mayor of the County Borough of Bridgend, Coun Christopher Michaelides.

Supt James said: "Those people who know the Mayor are aware that he has given a lifetime of devoted public service to his community in many different ways, from teaching people to drive, running a business, supporting charities and holding local office.

"What people may not know – because Mayor Michaelides will never complain – is that he has been fighting his own battle with cancer during his Mayoral year of office."

ABOVE: Police Supt Paul James is putting on his running shoes for GLAZE charity.

"In honour of Mayor Michaelides' courage, strength and commitment to his communities, I have arranged to run the half marathon to raise money for one of his chosen charities, GLAZE."

GLAZE Prostate Charity Wales is the leading charity in Wales working with medical professionals in the fight against all prostate diseases, benign and malignant. Its mission is to raise awareness, promote understanding and fund both the latest medical equipment and the training of healthcare professionals. Donations can be made via www.justgiving.com/runningforthemayor.

Easter rubbish collections

THIS Easter, there will be no changes to the Vale Council's waste management services or household waste recycling centres' opening times over the bank holiday period this year.

A council spokeswoman said: "Residents can find out when their refuse and recycling is due to be collected by using the handy postcode search on the council's website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/living/environment/recycling_and_waste.aspx."S

'Use food caddy'

THE Vale Council has teamed up with Waste Awareness Wales to encourage householders to use their food waste caddy in order to cut down on the amount of black bags sent to landfill.

Waste awareness officer Vicky Lannen said: "Separating food waste from your regular black bin waste is easy. All food types are accepted, including meat and fish both cooked and uncooked, fruit and vegetable peelings, dairy products, bread, cakes and pastries, rice, beans and pasta.

"Even the bits that you wouldn't normally eat, such as eggshell and bones, can go into your food waste caddy.

"Tea bags and coffee grounds can also be recycled, along with the leftovers from your plate at the end of a meal."

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- New service amendments such as additional materials we can recycle (recently clean foil, emptied aerosols and cartons such as tetra pak)
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News from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg

The Fairtrade shop has been a huge success.

Year-7 pupils went hunting for Fairtrade products in the local supermarket.

Top award

YSGOL Gyfun Bro Morgannwg is the first Welsh medium secondary school and 11th school in Wales to achieve the prestigious NACE Cymru challenge award for more able and talented pupils.

This award is given for high quality work by the whole school, teachers and governors, in challenging all pupils, including those with high abilities, to achieve their best.

It is presented by NACE: the National Association for Able Children in Education, a leading national education organisation and registered charity established for 28 years.

NACE helps teachers provide for pupils with high abilities whilst enabling all pupils to flourish.

It provides advice, training and resources for teachers, including the NACE Cymru Challenge Award Self-Evaluation Framework, which Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg has used to audit and plan what it provides for more able and talented pupils.

Thousands of primary and secondary schools are using The Challenge Award Framework to develop their work.

Assessors, who spent a day in the school, were impressed by strong leadership and management of provision which keeps the needs of more able learners at the forefront of the school's work and the good support and challenge provided by the Governors.

Assessors judged the quality of the school's work by observing lessons, interviewing the pupils, teachers, parents and governors and by looking at the pupils' work.

The award goes to schools which meet the criteria and remain committed to continuing to ensure high-quality provision for more able and talented pupils.

Fairtrade fortnight

THE school has been taking part in numerous activities to raise awareness about Fairtrade during Fairtrade fortnight 2012.

Members of the sixth form eco committee have been leading activities and competitions using Fairtrade produce

They have also given pupils the opportunity to try Fairtrade bananas and chocolate for free during lunch and break times.

The Fairtrade shop has been a huge success with all the Fairtrade chocolate selling out before the end of the first week.

The sixth form eco committee and the year-10 Welsh BAC class ran the shop every break and lunch time throughout Fairtrade Fortnight.

On March 6 a Fairtrade day was held for year-7 pupils. Pupils had the opportunity to learn about the lives of young people in India who have been affected by the Fairtrade movement.

Martha Holman from Fairtrade Wales and Love Zimbabwe visited the school to teach the pupils about the lives of people in Zimbabwe.

Members of the sixth form eco committee helped year-7 pupils as they researched Fairtrade produce in the local supermarket.

Eco committee

THE eco committee meets every Friday.

So far this year, the pupils have completed a winter term audit and are hoping to complete the spring term audit before the end of term.

The results are displayed on the eco school noticeboard.

The notice board advertises to pupils, teachers and visitors to the school all of the school's eco activities as well as the whole school eco code.

Anti-racism day

AS part of the year-9 anti-racism PSE work unit, an anti-racism day was held on March 9.

The school collaborated with the Show Racism the Red Card campaign, in order to host the day along with the religious and physical education departments.

The feedback from pupils and the company was very reassuring and year-9 will continue with their work unit in PSE lessons.

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT, at 6.30pm on April 5 at the Philip John Community Room, Barry Library.

COWBRIDGE PACT, April 16 at the Fire Station, Druids Green at 7pm.

LLANDOW/EWENNY PACT, April 18 at Ewenny Village Hall at 7pm.

WENVOE PACT, April 18 at Wenvoe Community Hall at 7pm.

SULLY PACT, Jubilee Hall on April 5 at 8pm.

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'WONDERFUL AMENITY A CREDIT TO TRUST'

MP praises volunteers' work at the Coed y Bwl reserve

COED-Y-BWL Reserve's celebrated wild daffodils were in full bloom for the highly successful open day, when the new information board and cairn were unveiled by Murray McLaggan of Merthyr Mawr Estate with Vale MP, Alun Cairns.

Mr McLaggan recalled the early history of the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales' conservation work at the reserve, when over 30 years ago, Dutch Elm disease ravaged the wood and threatened the daffodils with the sudden exposure to invasive bramble.

He also thanked the long-term group of volunteers for their maintenance work to protect the woodland and its wealth of wildlife.

Bridgend Group chairman Tony Wilson paid tribute to volunteers for their dedication over four decades.

Mr Cairns said: "I'm so impressed by the volunteers' conservation work over such a long period.

"The reserve and its lovely setting in the Alun Valley is a credit to the Trust and Merthyr Mawr Estate – and a wonderful local amenity for the area."

Warden Richard Marks thanked Merthyr Mawr Estate and Mr McLaggan for their continued renewal of the leasehold since 1972 and called on younger volunteers to step in and help protect the wood for future generations of country lovers.

Scores of visitors walked around the six-acre reserve to see the daffodils and listen to spring birdsong.

HALF TIDY PERFORM FOR EISTEDDFOD

ON Friday, April 20 from 8.30pm, the 'Half Tidy' group will present an evening of light musical entertainmentat at the Sportsman's Rest, Peterston-super-Ely.

A collection will be carried out for the National Eisteddfod at Llandow later this year.

Making a will can benefit Ty Hafan

TY HAFAN, the family hospice for young lives, will be running its 'Write a Will' campaign from April 16–27.

The charity has teamed up with 26 solicitors across south Wales to offer people the chance to have a simple will written for just £50, giving supporters the opportunity to help make a real difference to life-limited children, young people and their families throughout the region, by leaving a gift in their will.

Mrs Dorothy Davies and her husband Mr Ronald Davies MBE both remembered Ty Hafan in their wills. Dot and Ron, as they were known by family and friends, made gifts to their loved ones in the first instance and then remembered their chosen charity.

A Ty Hafan spokeswoman said: "Dot and Ron loved to travel abroad on holiday. They lived life to the full and were known by many in their community. Ron was born registered blind and Dot was born with dwarfism.

"Dot and Ron chose to include a gift to Ty Hafan in their wills, remembering the children and young people with life-limited conditions and their families. They continued their lifetime support of charities by perhaps providing the most generous gift of all, a gift in their wills, which will allow their generosity to live on and will form part of their legacy."

Clare Waters, herself a non-practising solicitor, now working with Ty Hafan explains the benefits of remembering a favourite charity in your will:

"We would always expect family and friends to come first when making gifts in a will, but would ask that a thought is spared for the children, young people and their families to whom Ty Hafan can be a lifeline. Any gift would be most welcome and even a gift of one per cent of the residue of an estate can make a real difference."

To find a participating solicitor near you, telephone Clare on 02920 672056 or email legacy@tyhafan.org

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Vale Council launches two coastal pathways

LEFT to RIGHT: Trica Cottnam, coastal access officer; Frank Colman, chair of local access forum; Sue Rice, Countryside Council for Wales; Bob Guy, VOG; Alex Bailey, Bay Caravan Park and Gwyn Teague, Rights of Way Officer.

LEFT to RIGHT: Frank Colman, chair of local access forum; Sue Rice, Countryside Council for Wales; Julian Golunski, trustee of Dunraven Estates; Tric a Cottnam, coastal access officer; Gwyn Teague, rights of way officer and Brian Acott, chair of friends of the Heritage Coast.

VALE residents and visitors to the area can now take full advantage of the stunning coastline, following the official launch of two stretches of coastal path at Lavernock and Heritage Coast.

The continuous linear Wales Coast Path, which will be completed in May, will stretch for some 1,400km (870 miles) around the whole coast of Wales, linking to Offas Dyke National Trail and running along the English border to provide a complete circuit.

Funded by the Welsh Government and delivered through local authorities from 2007 to 2013, the Coastal Access Improvement Programme will make physical improvements to existing paths along the coast, develop new routes, provide information and improve opportunities for access.

In St Mary's Well Bay, Lavernock, the council has worked with the Welsh Government, South and West Wales Wildlife Trust and St Mary's Well Bay Caravan Park to provide an alternative route, following the collapse of the previous footpath due to erosion.

Within the Heritage Coast, the council has worked with Dunraven Estates to dedicate 7.5km of access as a public path.

This represents a sizeable addition to the public footpath network and in turn has allowed major works to be undertaken, significantly improving the path through the valley at Cwm Mawr as well as upgrading gates and signing along the rest of the route.

EASTER FUN FOR YOUNG ONES AT COLWINSTON

PICS BY GEMMA GRIFFITHS PHOTOGRAPHY

COLWINSTON Preschool enjoyed a visit from the Easter Bunny at their recent Easter activity day.

The children enjoyed meeting the bunny and hunting for Easter eggs in the garden.

The children created some beautiful hats for the Easter bonnet competition, and enjoyed the craft activities and hot dogs provided for them.

The beautiful weather made it a great morning for all the families.

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PUPILS GET FUNDRAISING HABIT!

Pupils show off their Sport Relief gear at the fundraising walk.

'Human caterpillar' at school raises essential cash for Sport Relief

CHILDREN in Gladstone Primary School, from reception to year-6, helped to raise money for Sport Relief by walking a mile recently.

The human caterpillar left the school in high spirits on a bright, sunny morning with year-6 leading the way. The rest of the school followed in age order and completed a mile walk around the block. The older children then clapped and cheered as the youngsters completed the circuit.

So far, the children at Gladstone have raised more than £300 for Sport Relief and the school would like to thank the parents for their generosity and support in this very worthwhile cause.

"We are very proud of the children's attitude towards this fundraising exercise. They supported and encouraged each other along the way, motivating not only their peers, but also their teachers!" said Miss Jones, PE co-ordinator.

Tally–ho at Talygarn for Scott and Alex!

From left to right: Scott Quinnell, Michigan, Chris Rogers and Grand Slammer Alex Cuthbert.

SKY SPORTS had good reason to film a Welsh rugby hero at a local equstrian centre earlier this week.

Welsh winger Alex Cuthbert used to be a show-jumping champion and former Wales' international Scott Quinnell decided to use Talygarn Equestrian Centre as the backdrop for the channel's 'player profile'.

Talygarn centre owner, Chris Rogers, said: "Alex used to showjump, and Scott used to ride too. Scott took the opportunity to ride one of the horses Michigan.

"The profile will be shown on Sky Sports on Thursday, April 5 between 9.30pm and 10pm, and also before Saturday's match between the Blues and Leinster."

Charity tractor run

THE Vale Tractor Run will take place on Sunday, April 22 at 10am.

The run is being organised by the Tractor Boys of Aberthin, on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society, and will support the Ed Evans Foundation.

The run will start and finish at Frank Sutton's Depot, St Mary Hill, and the trip around the Vale will cover about 30 miles. Registration of tractors will take place at 10am for a 10.30am start.

There will be a half-way refreshment break at the Llandow Race Track Café.

Entry and sponsorship forms can be obtained from Basil George (telephone 01656 654440) or email: Basil@basilgeorge.com.

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Llandough beauty is crowned Miss Vale

ABOVE: from left to right, Jessica O'Sullivan, Ellis-Mae Rowlands, Hiral Narbad Shah and Georgia Faith Bassett.

A Bollywood dance teacher from Llandough has walked away with the Miss Vale of Glamorgan title – and now goes on to compete for the Miss Wales title later this month.

Proud supporters watched teenager Hiral Narbad Shah take the crown in a ceremony held at The Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl.

Hiral (19), who plans to go to Cardiff University in September, said she entered the competition without any expectation of victory.

"I saw an advertisement and decided to respond, but didn't expect to win," she said.

In the past, Hiral has been a model in shows highlighting Asian fashion, but said taking part in a pageant was an entirely different experience.

There were two runners-up. Jessica O'Sullivan (17) a student from Barry, and Georgia Faith Bassett (17) a student from Bonvilston, who will go on to represent the Vale in the Miss Wales 2012 grand final.

As winner of the public vote, Ellis-Mae Rowlands, from Llantwit Major, will also join them.

All the contestants were interviewed and took part in three catwalk rounds, including a casual wear round, little black dress round and evening wear round in front of a panel of judges.

Prior to the competition, the contestants for Miss Vale of Glamorgan, and Miss Bridgend, which took place on the same night, raised more than £3,000 for the competition's associated charity The Joshua Foundation.

The Miss Wales contest takes place at St David's Hall, Cardiff, on April 14.

Latest Barrivale Bridge results

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge club are: Tuesday, March 27: First – Mark Roderick and Mike Close, 73.81 per cent; second – Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews, 61.11 per cent; third – Eileen Hughes and Carol James, 54.76 per cent. Alan and Lyn won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, for more information telephone 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

LEKTRONIX OPEN DAY

ADVERTISING FEATURE

LEKTRONIX, a Rockwell Automation Business, specialises in supplying new, refurbished and obsolete industrial automation equipment, as well as offering an unrivaled repair service across the range of equipment.

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The Lektronix team.

Customers not only benefit from 12 months' warranty on all repairs and supplied parts, but are also able to receive an emergency call-out service and technical support from a reliable and established company.

The recent open day at Bridgend showcased the newly installed test rigs that will allow even more parts to be fully functional tested.

Phillip Thomas, general manager, stated: "The open day was a great opportunity for our customers to come and look round our facility and meet our engineers, employees and management team."

For more information about how Lektronix, a Rockwell Automation Business, can help your business, call 01656 720205 or visit: www.lektonix.co.uk.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Vale Women's Business Network

What place does Social Media play in your marketing strategy?

Wed 18th April 2012
At **Bar 44, Cowbridge**
6.30 – 9 pm
Guests and non-members are most welcome!
(Guest membership for this event is £10)
Please email members@vwbn.org.uk to book
www.vwbn.org.uk

WHAT place does social media play in your marketing strategy?

We welcome back Russell Davies of Lobster Digital Marketing.

This month, Russell will focus on how to keep up with social media trends in such a fast-changing environment, and help you identify what might be effective for you to get your message out there.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and share your experiences in our usual relaxed and friendly environment.

So, do join us at Bar 44 in Cowbridge on Wednesday, April 18 from 6.30pm - 9pm. £10 non-members, £5 members.

Please contact Rebecca to book at mailto:members@vwbn.org.uk.

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All these products are among a wide variety made on a regular basis at the locally-run butchers.

The business is now taking orders for Easter. Telephone 01443 225225.

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THE ART OF SELF INQUIRY

MOST of our stress comes from our relationships, and it can cause physical illness, says Janet Brown.

Janet has recently returned from Washington DC where she spent three years with her business partner, Ron Powers, perfecting a new, innovative technique to relieve stress called 'The Art of Self Inquiry'.

Janet has returned to her home town of Barry, where she works as a personal coach and teaches the Art of Self Inquiry.

She said: "It's exciting to know we truly don't need to wait for others to change in order to relieve our personal stress.

"We can dissolve our own stress and change in ways that will empower us to improve our relationships."

Janet has spent much of her career travelling abroad, teaching personal empowerment and conflict resolution in two global organisations.

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AQUA SPAS – offering you the ultimate in luxury

AQUA SPAS has now been established for eight years and has achieved great success in the UK hot tub industry.

"We pride ourselves on giving a highly professional service and support and have installed more than 400 hot tubs.

"It's not just about selling products, it's about building good customer relationships and after sales support."

The business started as a service business in 2004, after Julian had left aeronautical engineering.

It quickly grew, with a high demand to support many hot tubs and pools in south and west Wales – as many clients were left unsupported by other brands.

Julian said: "We became authorised dealers in 2005 for USA and Canadian manufactured hot tubs and installed many projects throughout the Welsh region.

"After an expansion plan in 2010, to move to bigger premises at Atlantic Gate, Barry, we have recently expanded our showroom with a refit to accommodate more wet leisure products.

"We are now named Aqua Spas & Pools, as we found continued growth with swimming pool building projects and refurbishment.

"We are now stocking pool equipment and a full range of pool chemicals.

"Since we have been operating as a family business, we have grown by more than 50 per cent and last year we expanded our show display again to more than 10 hot tubs, including an above ground pool, and a full size swim spa.

"We have a huge range of accessories and chemicals at the most competitive prices, providing everything you may need to fully enjoy your home spa and pool.

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Get your car smart for spring

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Boxes and Busts is *the* 'place to be'!

Lowena Diment (12) enjoys a creative session at Boxes and Busts.

A HUGELY successful three days of jewellery making demonstrations were held at The Bead Room at Boxes and Busts last weekend.

Lots of merriment, learning and fun were had by all.

Many new people are now converts to a new craft and lots more will be after attending one of the many all-inclusive workshops offered after the launch of the new teaching schedule.

Many places are already taken but the workshops available include; chain maille, precious metal clay, working with wire, polymer clay, kumihimo, beginners jewellery making and tiara making.

With further new workshops planned after an expansion due later this year, The Bead Room is fast becoming the 'place to be!'

The Bead Room now stocks a vast range of beads and findings, including a large range of high grade fresh water pearls, a superb selection of semi-precious gemstones and a range of high end clasps from the Elegant Elements range by The Beadsmith.

For further information about The Bead Room, the workshops or for help and advice, please contact Boxes and Busts, Unit 19, Ty Verlon Ind Est, Cardiff Road, Barry, CF63 2BE. Tel: 01446 701230; or visit: www.boxesandbusts.co.uk.

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Meat and ten veg the way to go!

VEGBOX company, Riverford Organic, is encouraging the nation to rethink how they cook with meat.

Meat and ten veg is the phrase they use to sum up their philosophy – let the meat we eat be better quality, eaten less often in smaller quantities and with confidence that the animal has been treated respectfully.

Above all, make the veg the star of the show. Using meat this way helps it go further, so it's a good strategy for those on a tighter budget.

Meat from animals that has been slowly reared on a natural diet often has much more flavour than its intensively-produced counterpart.

It makes sense that you won't need to use as much to make a tasty meal. Making sure the whole of the animal is used is another part of the meat and ten veg philosophy.

With this in mind, Riverford Organic makes a point of selling less mainstream cuts such as brisket, pork belly and oxtail through their meatboxes.

Chris and Alison Moruzzi, who deliver meatboxes to families in mid and west Glamorgan, say it's really easy to get stuck in a routine of using the same quantity of meat in the same dishes.

However, by replacing a third of the mince in spaghetti bolognese with a variety of tasty colourful veg, you still get a flavourful, satisfying meal.

Their local office number is 01639 772846.

Future's new Vertex tile effect roof

THE Vertex tile roof bridges the gap between conservatory and extension creating a room for all year round living while working in perfect harmony with your home.

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Please visit our website for more information: www.futurewindowsolutions.co.uk, or contact our friendly team free on 0800 032 0921.

Louise and Paul of The Bead Room
Would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank to
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Your Demonstrators were
Sarah Warden-Smith of Bezeal www.bezeal.com
Louise Sidford of boxes and Busts www.boxesandbusts.co.uk
Judith Dutton of Judith Dutton Jewellery - www.juditbduttonjewellery.com
Nick and Gail Rees of GNR Designs - www.gnrdesigns.co.uk
Jo Williams of Mrs Jo Bangles www.mrsjobangles.co.uk
Paula Hodge of 2 Crafty Birds - www.folksy.com/shops/2craftybirds
Lesley Burnett
Kate Wilding of Boxes and Busts www.boxesandbusts.co.uk

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The Vertex PVC-u tile effect roof comes in different combinations and can combine glass as well as tile effect for those who would also prefer to add more light. There are many benefits to our Tile effect roof:

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For more information, call 01633 270422.

Cowbridge Book Festival – family fun and epic stories

The Gruffalo will be on hand to entertain youngsters.

COWBRIDGE Book Festival is planning a family fun day in the Old Hall Gardens on Saturday, May 12 when '*The Gruffalo Comes To Cowbridge*'.

TV broadcaster Lucy Owen will open the fun day where there will be plenty of interesting craft stalls, children's games, the festival café and the St Athan RAF Band to provide some oompa pa!

As well as the chance to meet the Gruffalo and hear his well-loved stories, Cathy Farr will introduce her dog Finn and talk about how he inspired her to write about the Fellhounds of Thesk in her exciting fantasy book *Moon Chase*. The historical novelist Anne O'Brien will make the first presentation of the day in the Old Hall. Anne's new book *The King's Concubine* will be released just in time for the festival and is the story of Alice Perrers, notorious mistress to King Edward III, one of England's most powerful and charismatic monarchs.

From the 14th Century, we fast forward to the future with award-winning author Horatio Clare. Last year Horatio proved to be a very popular and entertaining speaker. His new novel *The Princes Pen* is based on a myth from the Mabinogion. It is a tale of conflict, faith and banishment and provides a graphic depiction of the cruelty of war and torture.

A joint presentation by Ben Cane (*Sparticus: The Gladiator)* and Anthony Riches (*Leopard Sword*) will transport us back to Rome. These best selling authors will discuss the might of Rome from two completely different perspectives.

The final presentation of the day will be made by Alexandra Claire. She will talk about her debut novel *Random Walk*. This futuristic book is a chilling, cautionary tale for the 21st Century to be compared with *Brave New World* and *The Road*.

In the evening, the Market Theatre will host *The Squire of Gadshill*. CADS are presenting Lloyd Lee as Charles Dickens in his wonderful, atmospheric one-man show to celebrate the bicentenary of Dickens' birth.

For details of all Book Festival events, visit www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk. ***SRC***

Stampede to local petrol stations as government advice backfires

PETROL stations across the Vale and Bridgend county borough were under siege on Thursday, March 29.

The Coalition Government came under fire following remarks made by Minister Francis Maude advising people that one precaution motorists could take would be to fill up a jerry can.

Some people saw it as an indication that the tanker drivers were about to go on strike and that there would be a national fuel shortage.

Queues developed quickly at petrol stations on Thursday morning causing a headache for local supermarkets. They continued for much of the day with many pumps 'running dry'.

At Waitrose in Palmerston, staff were in the forecourt and car park supervising an orderly queue to the pumps. Traffic began backing up Palmerston Road as the junction into the supermarket became clogged up.

A similar scene developed at the Waterfront in Barry.

A traffic jam developed at the roundabout leading into Morrisons. It meant people making their way along the main road at the Waterfront faced delays of up to 20 minutes.

One Bridgend petrol retailer told The GEM: "On the Thursday, people were already queueing at a quarter to six in the morning.

"It was non-stop until supplies were exhausted in the late afternoon. It was quite a relief when we ran out."

By Friday, although there were still queues at petrol stations, the sense of panic had subsided, perhaps thanks to an announcement by Unite that tanker drivers would not strike over Easter.

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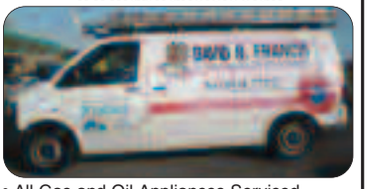
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A catwalk show was held at Arboreal in Eastgate, Cowbridge, last Tuesday (March 27) which drew an appreciative audience.

As you can see from Andy Wicks' images it highlighted the very best in local fashion and there are hopes the event will be repeated in the future.

Among the contributors were Fich & Ramous, Vadatelier, E91, E91 Classic, Pebble and L'Armoire.

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COWBRIDGE

So much to see...

THE FRIENDLY TOWN WITH THE COMPLETE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

THE wonderful weather earlier this week heralds what will be a momentous few months in the history of Cowbridge.

Next month, the second Cowbridge Book Festival will be held, three months later the National Eisteddfod and thousands of visitors arrive – and by October the town will have a new Waitrose store giving the town a huge commercial boost.

The chairman of the Chamber of Trade, Alun John, said: "The fact that we've started to get some lovely weather makes for a more vibrant atmosphere and people in Cowbridge are looking forward to enjoying the spring and summer months – you can feel the buzz.

"Soon the book festival is going to be held and later in the summer we hope to be welcoming many visitors from the National Eisteddfod.

"Both events are an opportunity for the town's businesses and shops to showcase what they have to offer the public."

The book festival is an illustration of how one event can spark 'spin-offs' over the same period of time – this year Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) is presenting 'The Squire of Gadshill' in the Market Theatre on Saturday, May 12, the Chamber of Trade is planning a 'guess the book' trail around the town and Dick Tonkin of the Historical Society will give guided walks round local sites of note.

Stella Cheeseman, the book festival organiser, said: "Spring in the ancient borough of Cowbridge is an excellent time to stage our festival.

(Continued on facing page)

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All entrants must be 18 or over to be eligible. **Closing date Friday, 20th April. The winning entry will be announced on the What's On pages of the GEM, Thursday, 26th April** *Normal competition rules apply. No correspondence will be entered into. Judges decision is final.*

So much to see...

(continued from Page 20)

ATTRACTIONS!

"The town has many individual attractions, from a wide range of distinctive shops to a variety of good pubs and restaurants where it is pleasant to sit and watch the world go by.

"Between author events, we wanted a time in the year when it was pleasant to stroll around the many historic buildings and sites in the town.

"Visitors soon become aware of the close knit and bustling community.

"We can have great pride in the well maintained public spaces.

"Volunteers have spent years restoring the Physic Garden and the mediaeval town walls, and members of the Cowbridge Charter Trust are currently working to improve the Old Hall Gardens.

"The festival is very fortunate that the efforts of this dedicated band of volunteers will come to fruition in time for the Old Hall to look pristine for this year's festival.

"Cowbridge, with its well established record for supporting festivals and making people feel welcome, is on track to make the second Cowbridge Book Festival a great success."

For local shops, festival and the Eisteddfod, visitors will provide a welcome boost.

Local businessman Mark Jones is so committed to Cowbridge that he is involved in not one boutique, but two – E91 and E91 Classic.

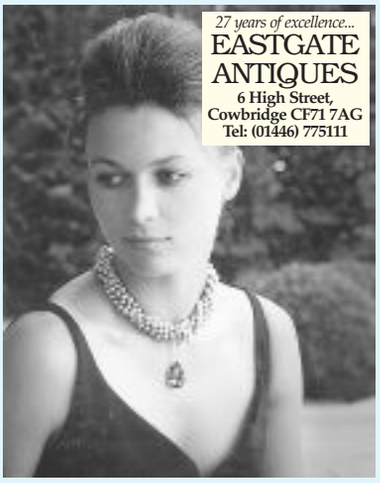
However, as Mark explained they both have a distinct character.

"At E91 Classic we have high end, exclusive items.

"People travel from as far away as west Wales, Cheltenham and the north of England to visit us."

Among the top names he stocks are Armani and Nicole Farhi. Mark also stocks Philip Treacy Hats, a label favoured by Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cornwall and Lady Gaga – renowned as the Rolls Royce of millinery.

(continued on Page 22)



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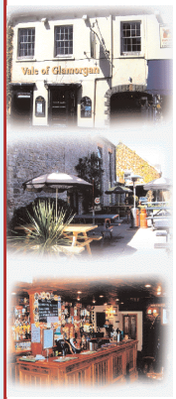

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COWBRIDGE

COWBRIDGE

So much to see...

DEDICATED FOLLOWERS OF FASHION!

(continued from Page 21)

"E91 is effectively a fashion driven department store on the high street and we have names like Issa – we stocked Kate Middleton's engagement dress – Missoni, a luxury Italian knitwear brand, and Milly, a New York name.

"In both E91 and E91 Classic we let the clothes do the talking."

Mark's enthusiasm is infectious and it is easy to understand why local boutiques have such a loyal following.

E91 was founded two and a half years ago and its success inspired E91 Classic, which will celebrate its first anniversary this August. The shops are attractive – light, spacious and uncluttered.

"Our aim is to give clients a great shopping experience – they become friends," added Mark.

Cowbridge is famed for its exceptional shopping experience – fashion, jewellery and restaurants.

But to prove that almost every area of retail is covered, it can boast an excellent camping equipment supplier too.

In Westgate, OBI Camping stocks everything that a family needs to enjoy short breaks or weeks away in the great outdoors.

People have become more cost conscious in terms of foreign travel, and the idea of reducing the carbon footprint and holidaying in Britain has become more appealing.

Business has been good enough to enable the company to recently open a new showroom.

(continued on facing page)

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So much to see...

THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

(continued from Page 22)

OBI Camping has a selection of tents and caravans – and all the accessories too – such as chairs and tables, lamps, durable dinner sets and stoves.

Owner Sarah John said: "We find that Cowbridge people really support Cowbridge businesses – they make a point of giving us first chance to supply what they need.

"Just being in the town has helped us, because some customers come from hundreds of miles away – combining a shopping trip with a mini-break in Cowbridge or in the countryside.

"They sometimes buy a tent, put it up on a local campsite, and call us if they need any advice!"

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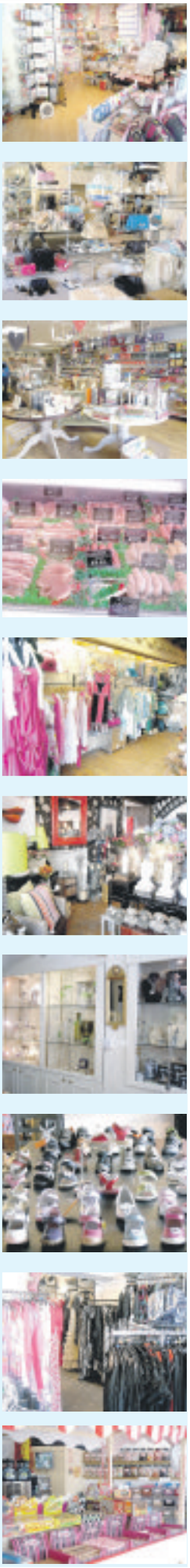

Out and About with The GEM

THESE GAMES JUST LEAVE YOU HUNGER-ING FOR MORE!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

IF the domination of the *Twilight* franchise wasn't enough to make the blood of those over the age of 18 run cold, be warned – there is another 'teen-friendly' series of novels heading to the big screen – in the shape of *The Hunger Games*, written by Suzanne Collins.

It tells the story of Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), who takes the place of her sister when she is picked to take part in the titular games, a fight to the death among representatives (or 'tributes') from the 12 districts that make up Panem (that once was north America).

Travelling with Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) who has also been chosen, will Katniss be able to survive the games, as she learns there is more to it than simply trying to stay alive?

A teen franchise, populated by attractive young actors, gobbled up by the mass public – there is more than a fleeting comparison here to the dreaded world of *Twilight*. However, if you think I'm going to continue by talking about rubbish acting and melodramatic storylines, then you'd be wrong; *The Hunger Games* is a different kettle of fish altogether.

A teen film about teenagers and children killing each other to survive isn't a fresh, or shocking, idea for anyone who has seen the incredible Japanese film *Battle Royale* which deals with similar circumstances, but given this is a mainstream affair, it is an often unflinching film that tests its 12A certificate.

This is both a positive and a negative – good, because it is a refreshing change of cinematic pace – a negative because invariably the brutality of the bloodshed and the magnitude of the characters' actions are underplayed too much.

Director Gary Ross, whose career has been built on pleasing family fare like *Seabiscuit*, similarly changes pace and does a good job, the decaying facades of the districts giving way to the neolithic austerity of The Capitol, and Ross' direction is suitably big in scope to match this, while the actual games aspect is given several nice touches by the director.

The performances are of a similar standard, with the cast delivering the goods, no matter the size of the role.

Jennifer Lawrence's turn as country girl in *Winter's Bone* showed she is more than just slumming as the earthy Katniss, and while she handles the feral aspect of the character well, she also grasps the aspect of the character being thrust into this world where death is all too real.

Josh Hutcherson delivers a solid turn alongside her as the naive Peeta who finds himself in the middle of the bloodshed, while the likes of Woody Harrelson, Wes Bentley, Elizabeth Banks, Stanley Tucci and Liam Hemsworth are all good in parts that range from support to extended cameo.

The only real issue comes through the screenplay, written by Ross, Collins and Billy Ray, which downplays the impact of the games.

The spectre of death may be hanging over the characters, but we never really see the inner workings of the fear of the characters in response to this, while the themes of rebellion and the portent of things to come is a touch too laboured and predictable.

Similarly, while the book allows the imagination to take over where the violence is concerned, transposing it to screen means that, while dramatic, we never really see the implications of it, while the film spends so long on the games themselves (the build-up, etc) that the characters feel a little too sketchily drawn.

However, as the first step in what is bound to be a series, *The Hunger Games* sets its stall out well, laying the foundations for the travails ahead and creating a universe that further trips to would be more than welcome.

VERDICT: A pleasing, if somewhat slight given the subject matter, adaptation, *The Hunger Games* is a decent first step in the latest world-conquering franchise.

While a touch tame, it nonetheless takes bolder steps than your average teen series, making for a worthwhile trip to the cinema. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Battle Royale* (2000), *Series 7: The Contenders* (2001), *Twilight* (2008).

EASTER APPEAL

LLAMAU, the homelessness charity, is asking people to remember those who don't have anyone to spoil them at Easter.

A spokesman appealed "As you start to squirrel away chocolate treasure, pop an extra egg into your basket for a young homeless person."

"We work throughout south Wales and have an office near you. Call us now on 02920 239585 to find your nearest Llamau office.

"Alternatively, drop off your Easter egg to your nearest Staples store, which is collecting them on our behalf."

WHAT'S ON / *in brief*

Toys and trains

CARDIFF toy and train sale will be held on Saturday, April 7 at Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan between 10.30am and 3pm. Telephone 01643 702757 or 07966 694579 or visit www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

Lavernock service

FRIENDS of St Lawrence at Lavernock are holding the first service of the year on Easter Sunday, April 8 at 3pm and all are welcome to the listed building, associated with the medieval village of Cosmeston.

The service will be led by the Rev Margaret Stark, Honorary Chaplain to the Friends of St Lawrence at Lavernock, and the organist will be Miss Ann Thomas. Enquiries to 02920 701300 or 701303.

Eisteddfod curry

ON Wednesday April 18 at 7 pm, a curry evening is organised by Quest Hair Salon at Jaipur Indian Restaurant, East Street, Llantwit Major.

In aid of the National Eisteddfod 2012, there's a choice of dishes, cost £16. For information and tickets from Quest, telephone 01446 793563.

The Highwayman Inn

Open all day Good Friday, Easter Saturday & Easter Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday

MEALS SERVED EVERY DAY
Monday - Thursday:
12 noon - 9pm last orders
Friday - Saturday:
12 noon - 9.30pm last orders
Food served til 8pm on Sunday

OPEN FOR BREAKFASTS
Monday - Saturday from 9am

OVER 60's SPECIAL MENU
Monday - Saturday: 12 noon - 3pm
Just a small example: Hand Battered Cod, Ham, Egg & Chips, 6oz Gammon Steak, Steak & Ale Pie, Scampi, Liver & Onions - *Plus many more!*
ONLY £3.95

Saturday, 7th April
KIRSTY *(First Class Vocalist)*

TRADITIONAL SUNDAY ROAST
plus Normal Menu – Served every Sunday 12 noon - 8pm
Booking advisable for Easter Sunday, 8th April
OUTDOOR AL FRESCO DINING
Secure Play Area and Bouncy Castle

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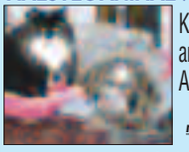
Email waynemor@hotmail.co.uk
www.highwayman-pub.com

MAESTEG ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY



Kittens, young and older cats – All needing a new family!
All cats have been neutered & microchipped
All our work is funded by Charity Shops.
We sell bric-a-brac, books, clothes and all items of furniture.
Donations always welcome.
Tel: 01656 721496 or 01656 769855
www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk
Thanking everyone for their continued support

In aid of Ed Evans Foundation and Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society
Tractor Boys of Aberthin
(in conjunction with The Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society)
will be holding a
Vintage Tractor Road Run
on Sunday April 22
Starting from Frank Sutton Agriculture Dealer, St Mary Hill, nr Bridgend CF35 5DU
Junction 35 M4, follow road across Llantrisant A473, next roundabout take road to Llanilltud St Mary Hill (will be signposted).
Coffee and tea to start with, lunch at Race Track Café, Llandow, nr Cowbridge. 9.30am for 10.00am start
Entrance is £10.00 Tractor and £5.00 for Lunch
No need to book in, please just turn up, 4x4 welcome.
For further information, contact:-
Basil George 01656 654440
Martyn 07973 889712
Jeff 07544 725223
or see Facebook page *'Tractor Boys of Aberthin'*

OCEAN LOUNGE
PORTHKERRY
WE ARE NOW OPEN:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT
& DAYTIME SUNDAYS
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Every Friday & Saturday Night - plus Bingo

Good Friday 6th April
Mike Gregory
Swinging Blue Jeans
- Music from 50s and 60s

Saturday 7th April
Maria Lynn
Female Vocalist

Easter Sunday 8th April
Iain Scott
Male Vocalist

CAR BOOT SALE
EVERY SUNDAY from 2pm
To find us - click directions@
www.firejoust.com
Tel. 01446 710362/711538

NATIONAL HUNT HORSE RACING
Ystrad Taf Fechan
POINT TO POINT
at Uplands Farm, YSTRADOWEN, Cowbridge
Saturday, 14th April - 1st Race 2.00 pm

Pleased to host the
AREA FEATURE PLACE
£1,000 prize money and the AGA Ladies Open Qualifying Race
Enquiries: Call Leanne 07890 373340
Shaunna 07737 532509 or Phil 07802 799131
(Come and enjoy a family day out at the races)

Butterfly Ceramics and Gifts
For a personal touch this Mother's day or Easter, come along and learn how to create beautiful, unique items and gifts.
★ Enjoy a relaxing 'stress buster' hobby.
★ Special introductory prices.
★ Discounts for groups and families.
Lots of fun for everyone, including Mum & Dad…
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Call Nina Mason on 07933 809686
www.butterflyceramics.co.uk

What's on and where with The Glamorgan GEM

Fontygary LEISURE PARK
Easter Entertainment

All venues open to the public!

Good Friday Evening
April 6th - Free Entry
PAUL NEEDS
(60's/70's covers)

Easter Saturday April 7th Evening
PHONIKA *(Harmony Band)* Free Entry

Easter Sunday April 8th Evening
Free Entry
ICE TRAX *(Vocal/Instrumental Duo)*

Plus Easter Sunday Afternoon
DAVE LEE JONES
in Bar on the Bay

Plus FREE kids evening entertainment in Bar on the Bay - Fri/Sat/Sun & Mon + Bouncy Castle on Easter Sun/Mon (weather permitting).

***Plus* Sunday 15th April**
The Fabulous
CERI DUPREE
Show
Only £4 per adult - Tickets available in reception

Fontygary, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3ZT
01446 710386

Margam Country Park
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• Adventure Playground • Margam Deer Herds
• Farm Trail • School holiday free activity days
• Eighteenth Century Orangery and Tudor Gothic Mansion
• Free Entry, Car Parking £3.90 for the day

Bank Holiday Events
9th April, Easter Monday: Down on the Farm
Enjoy the Sheep Show with 'Mobby' the Norfolk Horn and his eight other woolly friends; see Colin Gordon with his amazing sheepdogs, meet Jive Pony and watch Joseph's amazing racing pigs.
Adults £7.00, Child/OAP £6 Family (2+3) £26.00.

30th May, Bank Holiday Monday:
Pirates and Princesses Family Fun Day
Shiver me timbers! Join in with the pirates and princesses. Pirate shows, princess storytelling and meet our very own Captain Jack Sparrow. Don't forget to come in your best pirate and princess costumes.
Adults £5.50, Child/OAP's £4.50, family (2+3) £26

For more information about the Park and events call 01639 881635 www.margamcountrypark.co.uk
Like our facebook page for all the latest news and activities.

History in Dinas

THE next meeting of Dinas Powys Local History Society is on Tuesday, April 10, at 7.30pm in the Kynance Hall.

There will be an illustrated talk by John Wilmot on the story of Snape Maltings and the port on the Alde.

A fee of £2 for non-members and £1.50 for members will be charged. Enquiries to Betty Williams on 02920 513524.

Dementia advice

IF you care for anyone with dementia or suffer from early onset of this condition, Ty Hapus will be available at the Senior Helath Shop, Holton Road, Barry, on April 10 (10am-12 noon) for advice. Contact 01446 732385.

Castleland advice

Castleland communities ward co-ordinator will be available for advice on April 12 (10am-12 midday) at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry. Contact 01446 732385.

Peterston table top sale

THERE will be a table top sale in Peterston-super-Ely Church and Community Hall in aid of hall funds on Saturday, April 14 from 10am-12 noon.

Entry is free and everyone is welcome.

To book a table and for further details, contact Pat on 01446 760267, tables are £5.

This is in addition to the usual village market which is held on the second Saturday of every month in the small hall from 10am-12 noon.

The market includes homemade cakes, preserves, produce, plants and an extensive collection of books.

Freshly brewed Fairtrade coffee and teas will be served.

All proceeds go towards the improvement and maintenance of the hall.

Eisteddfod lecture

ON Friday, April 20, as part of the build-up to this year's Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod, Professor Geraint H Jenkins, of the Learned Society of Wales, will speak at St Donat's Arts Centre (Atlantic College) on The Prince of Welsh Romantics: Iolo Morganwg and his legacy.

The free lecture is at 6.30pm, and will be followed by a reception. All are welcome. For more information, telephone 02920 376971.

Brahms Requiem

THE Cardiff Polyphonic Choir lines up with Elizabeth Donovan (soprano) and Andrew Ashwin (baritone) and with pianists Maria Angel Garcia Soria and Thomas Worley to sing Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* on Friday, April 20 at the Dora Stoutzker Hall, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Full details and online tickets are available on the choir's website www.cardiffpolyphonic.org.uk.

NEXT GREAT SHOW...
CARDIFF TOY & TRAIN SALE
SATURDAY, 7th APRIL, 2012
10.30am - 3.00pm
Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, Penarth, Cardiff CF64 2NS
Travel by Train - Cogan Station next to Venue!
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Many top dealers in Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Lledo, Britains, Hornby Trains, Bachmann, Lima, etc *and much, much more* – 90 plus Tables,
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Website: chrisdyerfairs.co.uk
Promoted by Chris Dyer, Minehead, Somerset, UK

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Two selected main meals from our regular menu - available all day
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Traditional Sunday Lunch
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Booking advisable

Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays
CURRY CLUB NIGHT
5 pm - 9pm
Curry and a selected drink £5.75

Children's Menu Available

Quiz Night every other Wednesday. Next one - 11th April

Take turning off A48 towards Peterston-Super-Ely
Tel. 01446 761050
email: threehorseshoespse@sabrain.com

Let us know about your events - email us at *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* or tweet us *@gem_news*

Meet the NFU Mutual Bridgend and The Vale team at our open evening
between 4 & 7pm on Wednesday 11th April,
at Unit 1a, Morien House,
Bridgend Business Centre, Bridgend CF31 3SH

Julian, Dave and the team look forward to giving you a tour of our new facilities, followed by cheese and wine.
In the meantime, you are always welcome to pop in and visit us at any time.
Office Opening Hours are 8.30am - 5.00pm Monday - Friday
(Out of hours customer support centre
Monday to Friday 5pm - 8pm , Saturday 9am - 12.30pm)
Unit 1A, Morien House, Bridgend Business Centre CF31 3SH
Telephone *numbers have remained unchanged*
01656 653111 or 01446 772057
Email: bridgend_agency@nfumutual.co.uk
www.nfumutual.co.uk/bridgend
NFU Mutual

Stanwell girls complete a sporting hat-trick for school

The year-7, 8 and 9 football squad from Stanwell School.

The girls from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg won the year-7 football tournament by beating Llantwit Major Comprehensive School in the final.

GIRLS from Stanwell School in Penarth have completed a hat-trick of sporting success for the school after emerging as the Vale of Glamorgan's top soccer stars in a countywide football competition organised by the innovative 5x60 scheme.

Stanwell's year-8 and 9 girls' football team were hotly tipped after excelling in last year's tournament, and their latest footballing success follows on from other 5x60 competition victories in badminton and table tennis.

While Stanwell won the year-8 and 9 competition, neighbours St Cyres finished in second spot, and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg topped the table in the year-7 round robin tournament ahead of runners up Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

The winners and runners-ups from both age categories will now go forward to represent the Vale of Glamorgan in the regional competition to be held in Caerphilly later this month.

The 5x60 scheme encourages youngsters to exercise for at least 60 minutes, five days a week, and girls' football is one of the many varied sports that are provided by the scheme for teenagers in the Vale to have a go at during lunchtime and after-school sessions.

The Vale Council's Active Young People co-ordinator, Ben Williams, said: "Women's football will be massively in the spotlight this summer as the Team GB women's football team will be kicking off the entire London 2012 Olympic Games when they play a match at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on July 25."

To find out more about the 5x60 scheme in the Vale of Glamorgan please go online at: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/5x60.

LLANTWIT MAJOR AUTOCENTRE
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Old Market Place, East Street, Llantwit Major
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when accompanied by a car test when due – call for details
Delphi Service Centre, Modern Diesel Specialist

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01446 790100

Club boosted by sports grant

ABOVE: Members of Rhoose Bowling Club are hoping that the new high-tech wheelchair will encourage more players with mobility problems and disabilities to take up the sport.

High-tech wheelchair will help bowling club cater for everyone

BOWLERS of all ages and disabilities are now able to get around the green at Rhoose Bowling Club thanks to a new high-tech wheelchair that has been funded by the Community Chest sports grants scheme.

Members have been bowled over by the new chair, which is perfect for disabled players and those with mobility problems, as it has wider wheels that make it easy to move around on the club's all-weather surface and an adjustable arm rest that is ideal for bowling.

Both children and adults can fit in the chair, which was bought by the club to open up the sport to even more people. The club was awarded a grant of £1,000 by the Community Chest scheme towards the cost of the chair.

Run locally by the Vale Council and agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from Sport Wales, the Community Chest scheme helps people in Wales become more active, more often, and £1,500 is the maximum grant amount that is available for sports clubs and organisations to apply for.

Delighted with how the scheme has helped support Rhoose Bowling Club in their efforts to attract more bowlers, club secretary Jo Hopkins said: "We applied for a Community Chest grant as we wanted to improve our provision for bowlers with disabilities and mobility problems.

"The grant was hugely welcomed and the remainder of the money that we required to buy the chair was raised thanks to donations and fundraising. I'd also like to thank the Vale Council's Disability Sports Officer Simon Jones who was instrumental in sourcing a suitable wheelchair."

The £1,000 awarded to Rhoose Bowling Club was part of a mammoth £83,309.89 that was invested in grass-roots sport in the Vale of Glamorgan by the Community Chest scheme during the last 12 months.

Other sports to benefit include kayaking, basketball, netball, rugby, football, cricket, karate, golf and tennis.

If you'd like further information about how the Community Chest scheme could benefit your sports club or organisation, contact the Vale Council's sports and play development team by calling 01446 704748.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D716.

- **£2,000:** 515574.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £7,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 729705, 337419, 337848, 510790, 813225, 798755, 735213, 380749, 710624, 529872, 589707, 893238, 504012, 933534, 451049, 243874, 613150, 492701, 388226, 405520.
- **£5:** 749718, 278122, 260818, 200649, 245964, 468897, 943869, 896941, 477032, 120387, 848978, 636717, 555158, 503604, 781066, 257211, 569896, 848318, 139809, 355511, 236084, 853110, 307931, 374116, 742829, 672058, 449497, 851706, 562461, 183037, 705459, 757090, 354967, 149275, 755393, 836034, 693591, 891094, 311103, 741680, 166025, 827804, 327826, 666250, 393744, 883342, 170578, 166658, 847989, 556633, 254285, 504648, 414401, 853986, 169646, 717528, 182272, 808602, 101592, 862154.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 02920 672062.

Register for Ty Hafan's midnight sleep walk

LONG-time Ty Hafan supporter, John Barrowman, will be there to spur on the ladies and girls taking part in the 'Tiaras and Pyjamas'-themed Midnight Sleep Walk on Friday, May 4.

The event starts at midnight with a pitch-side lap of the Millennium Stadium before walkers head into Cardiff City Centre and down towards the Bay before returning to the stadium; a total of six miles.

Registrations are already coming in for this well-established event so would-be participants are advised not to leave it too late.

It's only £10 to register but if you take along four friends, the five of you will get a discount of £20 on your total group registration fee. This means your group will only pay £30.

You can register online at www.midnightsleepwalk.co.uk or you can ring the events team on 02920 672065 to secure your place.

John with 14-year-old Victoria Godwin at Ty Hafan

The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

All the latest news from the Eisteddfod team. Improve your language skills, your business or simply your golf!

THE National Eisteddfod is creating an online directory of local businesses in this year's Eisteddfod catchment area. This will be updated regularly between May and August this year.

A total of 150,000-160,000 people will visit the area for the National Eisteddfod on the old airfield at Llandow near Cowbridge and Llantwit Major from August 4-11.

Only businesses offering a relevant service to visitors during the week will be included in this directory. This is an opt in directory and organisers will only include information supplied by local businesses onto the website. Packs will be distributed to businesses in the Vale.

If you are a local business and would like to receive a pack, contact the organisers at gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk. It is hoped to have the online directory up and running by the beginning of May. Details of additional businesses will be added regularly.

Appeal for Caravans

EVERY year hundreds of caravanners will set up home on the Eisteddfod's caravan site, next to the festival site at Llandow. Some will bring their own caravans while others will be looking for caravans to rent for the week.

Organisers have already received numerous requests for caravans from people wishing to stay on the caravan site but who do not have their own caravans to bring. Do you have a touring caravan you could rent to these Eisteddfod visitors for the week?

Could you help the Eisteddfod in this way and make some money at the same time? If so, contact the Eisteddfod Office : 02920 763 777 sioned@eisteddfod.org.uk

2012 golf competition

YET again this year, there will be a competition for Eisteddfod supporters who enjoy a round of golf. The Eisteddfod's own golf competition is in its 27th year, and a group of keen golfers will get together to take part in the tournament at Brynhill Golf Club on the outskirts of Barry.

The competition was held for the first time in 1985, when the Eisteddfod visited Rhyl, and over the following quarter of a century, supporters have been able to play on some of Wales' best courses. This year, the open competition will be held on Wednesday, August 8 and the intention is to hold an additional competition for lady golfers on Thursday, August 9 (to be confirmed).

For more information, contact Duncan Prior the club pro on 01446 720277. For information on the course visit www.brynhillgolfclub.co.uk and we look forward to seeing you on the day!

Entry fee is £20 with a donation going towards the National Eisteddfod

Want to learn Welsh for the Eisteddfod?

IT'S often assumed that you need to speak Welsh to attend the Eisteddfod but there are so many activities to enjoy during the festival, whether you speak the language or not.

You can enjoy musical performances from the likes of Only Men Aloud, Dennis O'Neill and Rebecca Evans, visit 'Y Lle Celf' which is Wales' largest mobile national art gallery to admire or even purchase artwork, enjoy delicious food and walk along lane after lane of stalls selling a variety of items including clothing, local crafts, jewellery and even furniture!

However it's also the perfect place to practice your Welsh if you're learning or to get more information if you've always thought about learning the language but haven't got round to it yet.

It's also the perfect time to start doing so, as you'll have so many people you can practice your Welsh with! During Eisteddfod week, make sure you visit Maes D to pick up information about learning Welsh.

Maes D is the home for learners and would-be learners at the Eisteddfod – a pavilion where you can take part in Welsh taster sessions, participate in workshops, socialise with other learners over a cuppa or enjoy a variety of performances.

If you can't wait until August to start learning, contact the Eisteddfod's Learners Officer, Gwennol Haf, for information about how you can learn Welsh in the Vale – 0845 4090 300 or gwennol@eisteddfod.org.uk .

Gwennol can also provide free Welsh taster sessions for businesses wanting to give a warm Welsh welcome to Eisteddfod visitors over the summer, contact her to find out more.

The highlight of the year for anyone involved with learning Welsh will be Wednesday, August 8, when the winner of the Welsh Learner of the Year 2012 award will be announced in a special ceremony at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

This year the competition is sponsored by Agored Cymru.

The closing date for applications was March 31 and we are pleased to announce that this year we have attracted the highest number of applicants ever, which shows that the competition and the language is strengthening from year to year.

The Learner of the Year trophy is donated by the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre, Cardiff University, and the financial prize of £300 is given by the Gwynfor Fund, Barry.

Three other finalists will each receive £100 from the Gwynfor Fund and a trophy from the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre.

You can now follow Maes D on Twitter, @MaesD_Steddfod to get the latest news about our activities. We look forward to welcoming you to the Eisteddfod and Maes D in August!

Welsh phrase of the week: 'Diolch yn fawr' (Dee-ol-ugh un vowr), which means 'Thank-you very much'!

SIONED EDWARDS

Cofrestrwch i fod yng nghyfeirlyfr busnes yr Eisteddfod

MAE'R Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn creu cyfeirlyfr arlein ar gyfer busnesau lleol yn nalgylch yr Eisteddfod eleni. Bydd yn ymddangos ar wefan yr Eisteddfod ac yn cael ei ddiweddaru'n rheolaidd o fis Mai tan fis Awst.

Bydd 150,000-160,000 o ymwelwyr yn dod i'r ardal o Awst 4-11 eleni ar gyfer un o wyliau mawr y byd a gynhelir ar dir hen faes awyr Llandw, ger Y Bontfaen a Llanilltud Fawr.

Bwriad y cyfeirlyfr yw rhoi syniad i'r ymwelwyr o'r adnoddau a'r busnesau sydd ar gael er mwyn eu helpu i fwynhau'r Eisteddfod a'r ardal leol. Dim ond busnesau sy'n cynnig gwasanaeth sy'n berthnasol yn ystod wythnos yr Eisteddfod fydd yn cael eu cynnwys yn y cyfeirlyfr hwn.

Llawlyfr optio mewn fydd hwn, felly dim ond gwybodaeth gan fusnesau sy'n cysylltu gyda ni fydd yn cael ei gynnwys yn y cyfeirlyfr.

Rydym yn dosbarthu pecynnau i fusnesau ardal Bro Morgannwg. Os hoffech chi dderbyn pecyn a rydych yn rhedeg busnes yn y dalgylch, gadewch i ni wybod drwy anfon ebost atom – gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk, neu gallwch archebu pecyn yn rhad ac am ddim o'n siop arlein drwy glicio ar 'Adnoddau'.

Apêl am Garafanau

POB blwyddyn hefyd mi fydd nifer o garafannwyr yn ymgartrefu ar Faes Carafanau swyddogol yr Eisteddfod fydd yn cael ei lleoli drws nesaf i'r brif Faes yn Llandw ar gyrion y Bontfaen.

Fe fydd rhai yn dod a'u carafán eu hunain ond eraill yn chwilio am garafanau i logi am yr wythnos.

Mae'r Eisteddfod wedi derbyn nifer o geisiadau gan bobl sydd yn awyddus i aros ar y Maes carafanau ond heb garafan eu hunain ac felly yn chwilio am un i logi. Oes gyda chi garafán y byddwch yn barod i'w logi i Eisteddfodwr am yr wythnos?

Fedrwch chi helpu'r Eisteddfod a gwneud ceiniog neu ddau yr un pryd? Os felly cysylltwch â Swyddfa'r Eisteddfod 02920 763 777, sioned@eisteddfod.org.uk

Cystadleuaeth golff 2012

UNWAITH yn rhagor eleni bydd cystadlaethau yn ystod yr wythnos i gefnogwyr yr Eisteddfod sy'n mwynhau rownd o golff.

Mae cystadleuaeth golff yr Eisteddfod sydd yn ei seithfed blwyddyn ar hugain am gael ei chynnal ar gwrs Golff Brynhill ar gyrion tref Y Barri.

Cynhaliwyd y gystadleuaeth am y tro cyntaf yn 1985, pan oedd yr Eisteddfod yn Y Rhyl, a thros y chwarter canrif ers hynny, mae cefnogwyr wedi cael chwarae ar rai o gyrsiau gorau Cymru.

Cynhelir y gystadleuaeth agored ar Ddydd Mercher, Awst 8 ac mae bwriad i gynnal cystadleuaeth arbennig ychwanegol i'r merched ar Ddydd Iau, Awst 9 (i'w gadarnhau).

Am ragor o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Duncan Prior, pro y

clwb ar 01446 720277. Am wybodaeth am y cwrs ewch i'w gwefan sef www.brynhillgolfclub.co.uk

Pris am gystadlu eleni fydd £20 a bydd cyfraniad o'r ffi yn mynd tuag at yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol.

Dysgu Cymraeg ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod

UN myth am yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yw bod yn rhaid i chi siarad Cymraeg i'w fwynhau ond mae cymaint o weithgareddau i'w profi yn ystod yr wˆyl, os ydych yn siarad yr iaith neu beidio.

Fe allwch fwynhau perfformiadau cerddorol gan 'Only Men Aloud', Dennis O'Neill a Rebecca Evans, ymweld â'r Lle Celf, oriel gelf genedlaethol symudol mwyaf Cymru i edmygu neu hyd yn oed brynu'r gwaith celf, mwynhau bwyd blasus a cherdded ar hyd lonydd o stondinau yn gwerthu amrywiaeth o eitemau gan gynnwys dillad, crefftau lleol, gemwaith a hyd yn oed dodrefn ty^!

Ond mae hefyd yn lle perffaith i ymarfer eich Cymraeg os ydych yn dysgu neu i gael mwy o wybodaeth os ydych wedi bod yn ystyried gwneud. Mae hefyd yn amser perffaith i ddechrau dysgu gan y bydd cymaint o bobl o gwmpas i'ch helpu i ymarfer eich Cymraeg!

Yn ystod wythnos yr Eisteddfod cofiwch ymweld â Maes D i gasglu gwybodaeth am ddysgu Cymraeg. Maes D yw cartref dysgwyr a darpar ddysgwyr yn yr Eisteddfod – pafiliwn lle gallwch gael sesiynau blasu'r Gymraeg, cymryd rhan mewn gweithdai, cymdeithasu â dysgwyr eraill dros baned neu fwynhau amrywiaeth o berfformiadau.

Os na allwch chi aros tan fis Awst i ddechrau dysgu cysylltwch â Swyddog Dysgwyr yr Eisteddfod, Gwennol Haf am wybodaeth ar sut allwch chi ddysgu Cymraeg yn y Fro – 0845 4090 300 / gwennol@eisteddfod.org.uk .

Fe all Gwennol hefyd ddarparu sesiynau blasu'r Gymraeg yn rhad ac am ddim i fusnesau sydd am roi croeso cynnes Cymreig i ymwelwyr yr Eisteddfod dros yr haf, cysylltwch â hi am fwy o wybodaeth.

Uchafbwynt y flwyddyn i unrhywun sy'n ymwneud â dysgu Cymraeg yw dydd Mercher, Awst 8 pan fydd enillydd gwobr Dysgwr y Flwyddyn 2012 yn cael ei gyhoeddi mewn seremoni arbennig yng Ngwesty'r Bear, y Bontfaen. Eleni noddir y gystadleuaeth gan Agored Cymru.

Y dyddiad cau am geisiadau oedd Mawrth 31 ac mae'n bleser gennym gyhoeddi ein bod wedi cael y nifer fwyaf o geisiadau erioed eleni, sy'n dangos fod y gystadleuaeth a'r iaith yn cryfhau o flwyddyn i flwyddyn.

Mae tlws Dysgwr y Flwyddyn yn rhoddedig gan Ganolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg, Prifysgol Caerdydd, a'r wobr o £300 yn rhoddedig gan Gronfa Gwynfor, Y Barri. Bydd y tri chystadleuydd arall yn y rownd derfynol yn derbyn £100 yr un gan Gronfa Gwynfor, a thlws yr un gan Ganolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg.

Fe allwch chi ddilyn Maes D ar Twitter, @MaesD_Steddfod i gael y newyddion diweddaraf am ein gweithgareddau. Edrychwn ymlaen at eich croesawu i'r Eisteddfod a Maes D ym mis Awst!

Recycling Store welcomes its 1,000th customer

THE Recycling Store in Bridgend which opened six months ago, has welcomed its 1,000th customer on Bridgend Industrial Estate.

A new concept in recycling, it offers a convenient, compliant recycling service in Bridgend for households and businesses to recycle their waste.

The store accepts all types of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, broken or unwanted electrical and electronic equipment including vacuum cleaners, toasters, computer equipment, printers, wiring, small machinery and second-hand clothes in a wearable condition.

Customer number 1,000 was Martyn Clatworthy of M&D Services in Bridgend, who was presented with a bottle of champagne.

Buyer Craig Evans said: "The future for The Recycling Store looks very promising, with local interest increasing.

"People are pleased to be able to clear out their lofts, sheds, garages and spare rooms of unwanted metals and electrical junk and be able to trade their unwanted items in for a little cash and the knowledge that their items will be re-used or recycled."

The Recycling Store is part of the world's largest metal recycling company, Sims Metal Management, and is situated in Raven Close, Bridgend Industrial Estate. for further information on what can be accepted, please call Craig Evans on 0800 6526011 or go to www.the-recycling-store.co.uk.

Penarth Computer Club – PACE OF CHANGE

IF you get the impression that everything is happening at once in the technical world of computing, you are quite right! If you are confused, baffled and behind the times, you are not alone.

I find the pace of change fascinating, but keeping up is challenging intellectually and can be expensive. I have to be selective and adjust to circumstances

The trouble is the sheer range of duties that computers now perform. Whereas a vacuum cleaner has been around for longer and still sucks dust out of your carpet, the computer – devised to improve the reliability of calculations – has become the Swiss army knife of electronics.

Computing is at the heart of digital cameras, telephones, web browsing, music making, broadcasting and so on. There isn't one that makes the coffee (as far as I am aware), but your home appliances are now programmable remotely.

Trials are in progress to prove that computers can drive your car for you. It seems to be working. Sat-Nav. systems will need improvement to maintain overall safety.

Continued product development is quickening; manufacturers are able to improve their computers, operating systems and software applications at ever-shortening intervals.

The first serious version of Windows (3.1) was released in 1992 and went through a series of tweaks until a major step forward with Windows XP in 2001 (13 years).

The next major change was Windows 7 in late 2009 (via Windows Vista).

Windows 8 is expected later in 2012, after only three years. Yet many users are still happy to carry on using XP.

Apple computers have similarly gone through a process of development starting with the Apple Macintosh (Mac) and spreading its wings into the wider market with the iPod (music player); iPhone (telephone, texting, browsing and emailing, with built-in camera) and then the iPad (a hand-held computer with all of the above and more).

Apple stays ahead of its competitors by innovation and better design. That's not just me talking, but the general view of the press – and the public who buy the products and regard the better quality worth the higher price.

The iPad is now in its third version in three years, the latest having a much improved screen definition, as well as other bells and whistles.

My approach to a prospective purchase is to read about it to get the feel of people at large (not just the manufacturer's hype). Then I go for the best specification I can afford; trying to avoid paying for features that will never be used.

Then I stick with it until either significant improvements have been made or the kit is showing severe signs of age. It means that I do not have the very latest gadgets, but I have been happy with my policy for the last 20 years without bearing the high cost of keeping pace with continued product improvement.

Anyone care to hazard a guess when a single universal gadget will be on the market to do everything?

The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 10 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, at 7.30pm. Rhona and Mike F will be looking at words, books and pictures. For more information, ring Mike on 02920 309579.

Howard Desmond, chairman.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00223/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Remove and replace existing flagpole. Install two new architectural flagpoles with internal halyard
Location:/Lleoliad: Town Hall, Church Street, Llantwit Major
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II*

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00235/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Repair, up-grade and convert to residential use the existing listed barns
Location:/Lleoliad: West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw Barns, Aberthaw
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00258/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The proposal is to install an external radio antenna on the rear of the Old Hall to provide IT network connectivity.
Location:/Lleoliad: Old Hall, Community Centre, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00262/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Renewal of previously granted consent 2006/00069/LBC
Location:/Lleoliad: Church Farm Barns, Church Farm, Clemenstone
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00264/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Repair and replace perished bathstone with new to the following areas: ballusters, high level cornice, curved cornice, due to falling masonry.
Location:/Lleoliad: 1, Windsor Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00273/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The proposal is to install two external radio antennae on the school to provide IT network connectivity.
Location:/Lleoliad: Rhws Junior and Infants School, Fontygary Road, Rhoose
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00276/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The proposal is to install an external radio antenna on the rear of Albert Primary school to provide IT network connectivity
Location:/Lleoliad: Albert Primary School, Albert Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00216/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Extension of two cattle accommodation buildings.
Location:/Lleoliad: Pancross Farm, Llancarfan, Barry

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00254/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of portal frame agricultural cattle building 36.59m (120ft) x 30.49m (100ft) x 4.39m (12ft) to eaves
Location:/Lleoliad: Sutton Newydd Farm, Sutton Road, Llandow

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00238/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Stroke Rehabilitation Centre. Construction of two twin-storey links between wards East 3/4 and East 5/6. Demolition of wards East 3/4 and East 5/6 existing Day Rooms and construction of new 4 bed wards
Location:/Lleoliad: Llandough Hospital, Penlan Road, Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00244/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Siting of four mobile homes to accommodate agricultural workers
Location:/Lleoliad: Pancross Farm, Llancarfan, Barry

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00263/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Variation of Condition 2 of approved application 2008/01297/FUL to extend period of development/works
Location:/Lleoliad: Vianshill Farm, St. Nicholas

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00234/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Repair, up-grade and convert to residential use the existing listed barns
Location:/Lleoliad: West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Dated: 5th April, 2012
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry.
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 5 Ebrill, 2012
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri.
CF63 4RT

A WELCOME RETURN FOR THE FAMILY-RUN PYLE GARDEN CENTRE

ON Saturday, March 31 in a blaze of sunshine (which he must have conjured up especially for the occasion), BBC Weatherman Derek Brockway formally opened the Pyle Garden Centre.

Derek cut the ribbon that paved the way for shoppers to enter and, once inside, he was surrounded by fans who queued to buy signed copies of his books.

A reception was later held with guests, including the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, Terry Walton, the Radio 2 allotment gardener and Lynne Allbutt, the gardening writer.

Carwyn Jones and Derek were happy to be photographed together, along with the centre owners, the James Family.

The First Minister commented on how pleased he was that the garden centre was back in full swing. As a youngster, he could remember when it first opened in 1974 on the same site in Pyle, and how marvellous everyone thought that it was at the time.

In those days, the centre was a completely new experience which became a magnet for those wanting plants, garden tools and furniture, as well as exotic fish and other small pets.

For the James brothers, it was a personal tribute to their late father, local businessman Geoff James. It was his idea 38 years ago, and now his four sons have taken it back to its roots, running it independently once again.

Stuart Smart, Pyle's horticultural manager, said: "We want our customers to have a happy experience and return again with new gardening ideas which can help put the feel-good factor back into their garden!"

RIGHT: Derek meets people during a tour of the garden centre.

BELOW: First Minister, Carwyn Jones and Mrs Marian James, widow of the founder. Also in the picture, LEFT to RIGHT, are: Rob James, Mike James, Derek Brockway and Julian James.

ABOVE: Young Anna presents garden expert Lynne Allbutt with an example of the new Pyle Garden Centre's wares.

ABOVE: A fond goodbye from Derek to Marian.

REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH E MORGAN

Derek signing one of his books for Heulwen Strathearn.

BELOW: LEFT to RIGHT: Jayne James, Couns Gaynor and David Newton-Williams, representing Porthcawl Town Council, First Minister Carwyn Jones and BBC Weatherman Derek Brockway.

THANK YOU TO UK FOR GIVING US ONE OF YOUR FINEST DAUGHTERS — GI BRIDE S STORY

FROM HOMELY PENARTH TO THE WIDE OPEN SPACES OF AMERICA

THE 'Wartime Weekend' to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the American troops coming to the Vale of Glamorgan will take place over the weekend of June 16-17 at the Barry Waterfront. Further details can be found on the 'barryatwar' website. Glen Booker continues his series about some of the Vale women who married GIs during the Second World War. Glen explained: "In June 2010, I made contact with Mrs Joy Stanley in Washington State, USA. Her youngest son, Mr Steve Stanley, has written this very interesting account of the life and times of his mother..."

MOM was born on April 20, 1925 in Cardiff and her father, Frank Townend, was born in Stepney, east London. Her mother Gladys Morgan hailed from St Mellons, which is now part of Cardiff; growing up in the west end of London in the Shepherd's Bush area and returning to Wales in 1942 to live in Penarth while her father was posted with the RAF as an anti-aircraft battery training officer.

Currans

AT the age of 17, mom made the daily trek to Cardiff from Penarth to work at the Currans Foundry (Dumballs Road, Cardiff Bay) manufacturing tank tracks, as the war effort was in full swing.

She often recalls the hard, heavy work and the rotating shift work. It was her job to pour the moulds for the track links. To this very day, her back suffers from the heavy lifting.

Joy Vanessa Townend met Sergeant Utah Stanley, US Army, at the Esplanade pub and hotel in Penarth spring of 1944. Mom and some of her girlfriends were having a shandy (usually more lemonade than beer) and dad was on a pass from G-40 near Barry.

My dad went to Africa in 1942 with the 2nd Armored Div. He was assigned to the motor company at G-40 after convalescing from wounds suffered in Italy.

He was awaiting the D-day invasions. Mom recalls him going to France, but he did not talk about the separation a great deal.

Wedding

AFTER the end of war in Europe, dad returned to Penarth and he and mom were wed on August 18, 1945. They often talked about the counselling with Army Chaplains about the pending marriage, but through some red tape and with some pleading from my father with US Army officials, they finally got the blessing of Uncle Sam.

USA

DAD departed the UK in January 1946 and mom followed on a Liberty ship in March of that same year. The crossing of the Atlantic in the early spring was very rough going – she was pretty much sea sick for the better part of the voyage.

Arriving in New York City in late March, she and many of the other women boarded trains bound for Chicago – Chicago was the dispersal point for all the war brides going past the Mississippi river.

On the train that she boarded, she was the one going the farthest, the second to last being a woman debarking in Montana. She arrived in Wenatchee, Washington late at night on April 3, 1946.

Plassey Street, Penarth – VE Day.

The Curran Five!

Shock is how she described the trip across the US, especially after leaving Chicago – its vastness and no towns of any real size, let alone a city such as she was accustomed to. She recalled the enormous mountains and free running rivers of the western US.

My dad and his sister Dorothy were there to meet her. Mom always talks about the first pan she and dad bought the very next morning before travelling the 67 miles up the Columbia River to her new home in Brewster, Washington. To this very day, that pan is still used almost daily!

Meeting the family

MEETING her in-laws was intimidating. Her sisters-in-law welcomed her with open arms, as well as dad's three brothers. However, the welcome mat ended there. Matt and Mary Stanley, my dad's parents, acted very indifferently towards her at first. Over the years, those feelings changed.

Neither mom nor dad knew anyone in the area. Dad had enlisted in the US Army in Texas, where he was born and raised; the family had moved to Washington State during the war years.

The land of milk and honey was dry of milk and shy of honey

MONEY was very hard to come by and times were lean. Jobs were few at the end of the war for many of the returning GIs. Most of dad's savings were used by the family over the years to meet their needs. Their first home was a three-room farm worker's cabin. Utah had to take a job working in an apple orchard where his father was foreman.

Joy Stanley.

Sergeant Utah Stanley.

She often talks of how bad my father felt for not having a better life to bring her to. Prior to the war, dad worked for the railroad in Texas, but by not returning to that part of the US he was not able to retain that job.

They would often recall that first cold winter with only wood heat and a wood cook stove in the drafty little cabin they called home.

I have always had the distinct impression that they would have not changed a part of that looking back.

In July of 1946, my brother Frank was born in Okanogan, Washington, the first of three children.

Homesickness

HOMESICKNESS and loneliness were the order of the day while dad was at work and mom wondered what she had done.

Love and her fortitude prevailed and she kept on track. She is the strongest woman I have ever had the pleasure to know. One can only imagine what that must have been like to leave all you know and go to a strange place so far from home.

Keep in mind that this was before the days of just jumping on a plane to go for a visit – often she talks of tears she shed in private.

After a brief time in Nevada in 1947, dad got a job working for the Great Northern Railroad after returning to Washington State.

Mom recalls not liking the deserts or Nevada. She said she hated it. Strong words for my dear mom.

In 1950, my sister Pam was born in Quincy, Washington. Shortly after Pam's arrival, dad started working construction on the great hydro electric dams of the Pacific Northwest.

At about this time, they purchased their first home in Pateros, Washington, where they resided for over 35 years.

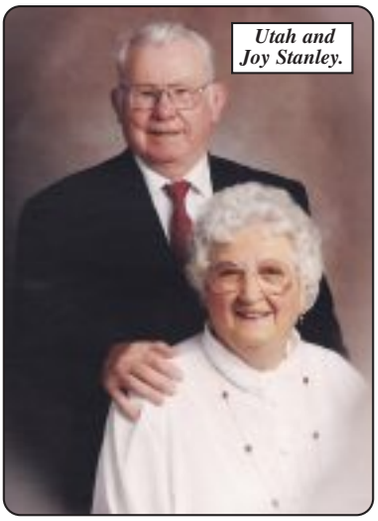
Finally settled down, mom decided she wanted to work for extra income. Being the largest apple producing region in the world, it was only natural that mom started working in the packing plants.

Going to apple packing school in 1954, she worked the long, gruelling hours on hard concrete floors for the next 30 years. This was certainly not what one could call a cushy job. The only consolation is the fact that the work was indoors.

However, during the summer months she worked in the orchards with my brother and sister. That was a way for the kids to make some of their own money. They had to be accompanied by an adult and mom was there like she always is.

Back home

IN 1957, she made her first return visit home. She recalls the excitement of seeing her people again. 11 years had passed and it was much easier than her first transit – this time they travelled by plane, returning to London where grandma and grandpa resided.


Utah and Joy Stanley.

A joyful return to Penarth in 1977.

Of course, there was a return to Penarth to meet with some of her old friends June Mathews, Rosemary Carr and another war bride from Penarth, Betty (nee Turpitt), who resides in New York State.

June and Rosemary remained in Penarth. The four of these women all worked at Currans together during the war years.

In 1963, Steve was born, the last of the clan. In 1969, grandma Glad came to visit. That was my first time meeting her. Oh what we had missed! We made trips to visit in 1977 and 79.

Mom and dad made their last trip in October of 1981 and gran passed away that October.

Dad retired in 1982 and mom followed in about 1985. I know my dad was in love with her until his passing on September 3, 2004. Mom wept on that day like none other.

Proud of heritage

I AM so proud of my heritage. To have a proper lady in the house has been a true blessing.

Mom and dad also have two grandchildren: Trevor and Stacy Stanley.

Mom is the most gentle soul I have ever known. She loves animals and cares for all the little birds in the backyard. I would say that a good share of her pension goes to the purchase of bird seed.

She talks of the 'Old Country' quite often. She was the perfect companion for my dad and helped him through many nightmares. My father carried the war with him until his passing, like so many veterans.

Her friends abound in the Manson, Washington area. She is involved in a civic club fortnightly and is also a faithful attendant of weekly bible study.

Growing up, us kids never went without a warm hat or mittens that mom would knit for us. Actually, we never went without anything.

Thank you

"I will say thank you to the citizens of the UK for giving us one of her finest daughters. But rest assured that her love for her home country has never waned."

STEVEN STANLEY

ALL THINGS WELSH CELEBRATED BY PUPILS AT DEWI SANT (with help from their friends!)

THE staff, parents and pupils of Dewi Sant recently joined in activities to celebrate 'Wythnos Gymreig' (Welsh Week) in the school.

The children were lucky enough to receive visits from S4C's 'Heini', Mr Urdd and friends, Sam Tan and the local fire crew, along with a local harpist and a Welsh story teller.

They also dressed up as characters from a Welsh book and paid a visit to the library on World Book Day.

Fun was had during the week making Welsh cakes, Welsh love spoons and Welsh flags.

The parents also joined in the fun with a daily challenge to encourage Welsh learners, and joined in a Welsh beginners' taster session!

The staff were delighted with how the children responded to the week and with their first celebration of saint's day in the new school.

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BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL NEWS

Barry pupils in seventh heaven thanks to sponsor

Barry Comprehensive School rugby 7s in their new kit with sponsor Jamie Sylvester, manager of Macron Store, Cardiff, coach David Manley (left), the headteacher of the school Jennifer Ford and head of PE David Williams (right.)

BARRY Comprehensive School's rugby 7s teams will be tackling their packed fixture list in fine style, thanks to the generosity of Jamie Sylvester, manager of Macron Store, Cardiff.

Jamie sponsored the under-18 7s kit, as well as sponsoring t-shirts for the under-18, under-16 and under-13 players.

All age groups will be playing in the Vale 7s, with the under-13s then taking part in the Berkhamstead 7s in Hertfordshire.

This will be followed by the Urdd 7s in Llanelli for the under-13, under-15 and under-18s; and then the under-13, under-16 and under-18s head to London for the Rosslyn Park National Schools' 7s – the biggest rugby tournament in the world.

Coach Mr Manley said: "We are very grateful to Jamie Sylvester, the manager of Macron Store, Cardiff for sponsoring all of the kit.

"We are aiming to give all our teams the opportunity to compete against the elite rugby schools from all over the UK.

"The 7s tournaments offer a great experience for the players on and off the field and I believe that taking part allows the boys to grow not only as players but also as well rounded people."

Pupils aim for the Olympic stadium

KEEP on running! Barry Comprehensive School students Matthew Thomas (year-11) and Matthew Edwards (year-12) have been doing just that, as both students regularly train together.

This year Matthew Thomas has been selected to compete at the 'Sainsbury's 2012 School Games' (Matthew Edwards was selected last year).

The Sainsbury's 2012 School Games is the pinnacle of the nationwide school games competition for the best school-aged athletes in the UK.

This year, the last day of the sports events will take place in the Olympic Park and will include competition in the Olympic Stadium.

It is a wonderful opportunity for school-aged athletes to be part of a multi-sport event and to have an insight into competing at the highest level.

Matthew Edwards has continued to build on his success. He is representing Wales in the Home Counties International Cross Country, as well as representing Wales in the mini London Marathon (5k) on April 22.

Both students feel that running gives them a real focus, as well as providing a release from academic work.

We wish both young men every success and look forward to celebrating their achievements.

ANDREW CLISSETT

Barry Comprehensive School runners Matthew Edwards and Matthew Thomas

Easter fun for the young

YOUNGSTERS can enjoy Easter activities at local leisure centres in Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

Street dance, dodgeball, basketball, cheerleading, short tennis, badminton and football are all among the highlights of the two-week programme taking place between Friday, April 6 and Sunday, April 22, with the majority of activities costing just £1.

Mini Olympic sessions are being held in Cowbridge and Penarth, and interactive dance mat sessions at Barry and Penarth.

In Barry, there are interactive Trixter bike classes for youngsters aged under 15. Soft play sessions will be held at all sites, and inflatable mega slide sessions in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major.

There are crash course swimming lessons available for children aged four and upwards in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major. Under 16s can also swim for free at specific times during the week. Pool-based activities including snorkelling, water polo and a rookie lifeguards course are also available.

For full details, you can download an activity programme from www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres or call 01446 403000.

Gwenfo Church in Wales school celebrates new kit

GWENFO Church in Wales Primary School football teams received a new kit this week. The kit was kindly sponsored by DigitalVirtue Complete Web Solutions, based in Cardiff.

Howell's School pupils dominate in chess

Alyssa Wang and Shayanna and Venetia Sivarajasingam are celebrating more chess success.

NO fewer than three pupils at Howell's School, Llandaff have bucked the trend and become Welsh chess champions for their age group in a game traditionally dominated by boys.

Alyssa Wang is the under-13 Welsh Chess Champion, Shayanna Sivarajasingam won the under-11 event, and her sister Venetia Sivarajasingam won in the under-8 category.

These three girls had already won trophies at the Cardiff and Vale Championships in February, and have now managed to repeat the achievement at this higher level.

Chess teacher Mr Thomas said: "For as long as anyone can remember chess in Wales has been dominated by boys – it is heartening to see that this wave of fresh talent from Howell's is challenging that."

Under-11s turn on the style

ON another glorious spring morning, Cowbridge under-11s took on a much bigger Rhiwbina under-11s team in Cardiff.

The boys began the game extremely well, with simple passing creating an early opportunity for Ioan Williams to breach the Rhiwbina defence.

Williams received a great off load from Langton-Cryer five metres out from the Rhiwbina try line; however, a great effort by the Rhiwbina defence meant Williams was tackled in the in-goal area before he could get the ball down.

Cowbridge gathered the drop out and once again drove into the Rhiwbina 22, and simple passing saw Lewis Hawke find himself on the wing to open the scoring.

A no thrills simple passing move resulted in Harry Edwards going over in the corner for the second try of the game.

Ben Jones fed Ruben Williams who took on a number of the Rhiwbina defence. Williams followed in the backs' footsteps and off-loaded to the waiting Ed Lewis who ran in unopposed for the third try of the game, all within the first ten minutes.

The next try came straight from the kick off, as Ruben Williams gathered the clearing kick and offloaded to Fenn who in turn put Ed Lewis in for his second try in as many minutes.

With the score 20-0, Cowbridge's confidence began to shine through and Hawke notched his second, and Cowbridge's fifth try of the first half.

With a few minutes before half time Rhiwbina got their first try of the game following some strong forward play and they added a second just before the whistle blew.

Straight from the start of the second half, Lewis Hawke made a great catch and off-loaded straight away to Ruben Williams who set off from just inside his own half for a great individual try.

From a Fenn-Jones combination tackle Langton-Cryer managed to make a clearing kick from deep inside his own 22 and Brad Downes gathered for his first try for Cowbridge.

Cowbridge completed the scoring with two quick tries, one from Langron-Cryer with a typical side stepping display, and one from Jack Dixon, who gathered a loose ball to wander in for the final try of the game unopposed.

A great team performance showing the boys are listening to the coaches and realising that simple passes create over laps and tries.

Final score: Rhiwbina under-11s 10, Cowbridge under-11s 45.

GJ

Under-9s in dominant form

BARRY Bees under-9s entertained Rumney and Fairwater on a bright sunny morning at the Reservoir Fields.

The Bees were in a confident mood after their success in reaching the District final last week and started the first match against Rumney at a frenetic pace.

They were moving the ball with conviction, and making significant inroads into the Rumney defence.

Cian Anderson went over for an early try after a strong run and Seb Fayiha followed this up with a great solo effort. The Bees' tackling was strong on very hard ground and they were completely dominant in the opening exchanges.

There were further tries from Spencer Williams and Jacob Pereira to put the Bees in a commanding lead at the break.

Rumney rallied strongly in the second half, but the Bees were soon back on the attack, and further tries from Jacob and debutant Taylor Ross-Zeal stretched their lead.

Rumney began to get their running game going and responded with three late tries interspersed with another Barry try from James Chapman, to make the final score 7-3.

The second match against Fairwater followed a similar pattern. The Bees started strongly and Rhys Lloyd forced his way through the visitors' defence.

Fairwater responded well and soon equalised. This stung the Bees into action, and they were moving the ball fluently, retaining possession through phase after phase.

Their endeavours were rewarded with further tries from Seb and Cian, and another from Rhys. Fairwater were still playing good rugby and were rewarded with a try to make the score 4-2 at the break.

In the second half James went over again after a flowing move through the backs, but Fairwater scored another after some great passing which stretched the Barry defence.

In the final quarter the Bees increased the tempo and were becoming increasingly dominant. Tries from Cian (2), Rhys, and Isaac McBride made the final score 9-3. This was another good performance from the Bees.

Squad: Rhys Lloyd, Jacob Pereira, Isaac McBride, Ethan Watkins, Charlie Bale, Cole Saunders, Spencer Williams, Seb Fahiya, Harrison Kelly, Cian Anderson, Stephen Williams, Taylor Ross-Zeal, Robson Mallam, Joseph Nationstead, Jake Lang.

JM

Cowbridge under-13s cling to victory against Rhiwbina

AFTER a heavy defeat the previous week Cowbridge recovered their form to win an exciting and fluctuating match 14-7 against Rhiwbina, despite being short of a number of players.

The home side soon showed they intended to play a fast and open game and were unlucky not to score within the first five minutes when they put together 15 phases of play without their opponents putting a hand on the ball.

However, a try was not long coming when scrum half Osian John scored an outstanding try. From the base of the scrum he took on and beat a number of Rhiwbina forwards before setting off on a 35-yard run, beating two other defenders on the way to score in the corner. Duncan Ace succeeded with a difficult conversion to give Cowbridge a seven-point lead.

The Cowbridge forwards gave a much improved performance over the previous week, with Matthew Keating and Harry Hopkins providing a number of turnovers for the backs to continue to pressurise their opposite numbers.

Accurate throws at the line out by Charlie Martin enabled second row Otto Guwy to gain clean possession and with Owain Jenkins, Tom Edwards and Will Couzins outstanding in the loose the home side, began to dominate all aspects of play.

A number of strong runs and kicks by wing Seán Davies and solid running down the middle of the field from centre Joe Nott gained valuable ground and the home side were unlucky not to add to their score by half-time.

From the start of the second half Rhiwbina immediately gained the initiative through a lack of concentration by Cowbridge. Within five minutes they had equalised with a converted try.

Wing Sam John, who had played well during the first half, was forced to leave the field with a leg injury. With no backs available as a replacement adjustments had to be made with back row Duncan Ace going into the backs and James Waters replacing him.

A few minutes later Josh Evans came on as a replacement in the front row and made an immediate impact.

Two storming runs and offloads resulted in a period of sustained pressure inside the visitors half which finally paid off when centre Dan Bunny scored an excellent try from outside the 22-yard line, which was again converted by Duncan Ace.

In a last-ditch effort Rhiwbina threw everything at Cowbridge but excellent tackling by Michael Thomas and Harrison Stevens prevented any further scores and allowed Cowbridge a well-deserved victory.

ML

UNDER-9s IN THREE GAMES

ON a very pleasant Sunday morning, Cowbridge under-9s travelled to Caedelyn Park to play three games.

It is probably only the last game, which concluded in a 2-2 draw, which reflected the respective abilities of the two sides.

Game 1: Rhiwbina 5 Cowbridge 4

In the first game, Rhiwbina piled on the pressure and scored three tries before, as the expression goes, Cowbridge got off the bus.

Mention during this period should be made of Jake, whose tackling effort was phenomenal, and who seemed to galvanise the Cowbridge team, who finally woke up and started to play.

A number of excellent passing movements culminated in a richly deserved try for Jake himself. Sadly though, the ball was then turned over and Rhiwbina scored their fourth try.

In the second half, Cowbridge started as they meant to go on, moving the ball rapidly from Jack with excellent ground being made by Aled, Charlie and Oliver.

All this resulted in a try for Harry W, which again topped off an excellent personal effort. Cowbridge continued in this vein, passing the ball and including a loop movement with this ending in a second try for Jake.

Unfortunately, the excellent pressure could not be maintained and Rhiwbina scored their final try of the game.

There is no doubt, however, which team finished the stronger as Charlie was desperately unlucky not to be given a try when he put the ball down over the wrong line.

Pressure told at the end when, having kept Rhiwbina out, Cowbridge moved downfield and finished the game with a try for Oliver.

To win the second half as they did against a team recognised to be probably the best in the locality reflects the massive progress the boys are making.

Game 2: Rhiwbina 4 Cowbridge 0

The fact is that there is little difference between the first and second teams who took the field for Cowbridge.

The boys in this team should not be downhearted by the final score because this was in no way reflective of how Cowbridge had played.

The boys had periods of continuous pressure, but without success in terms of scoring tries. However, handling mistakes etc were cut down considerably and the two tries that Rhiwbina scored in each half were from more limited periods of possession.

It is difficult to single anybody out in what was generally a hardworking team performance but James G tackled tirelessly throughout and made ground when he had the ball; Tom J always looked dangerous; and a special mention for Elis G whose bemused look at the positioning of the Rhiwbina players from the breakdown left the referee with no option but to penalise Rhiwbina; and Robbie, who sustained a bump and then was hauled down within centimetres of the line.

At the conclusion, it was all to no avail, however – the final score was no reflection of the game.

Game 3: Rhiwbina 2 Cowbridge 2

There was then a shorter game between mixed teams.

All the boys seemed to play in a more relaxed vein and matched Rhiwbina two tries each with Jake scoring (again) and James D showing his progress with the second try and demonstrating how his pace could give the team another dimension.

Squad: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Harry Crane, James Davies, Jay Downes, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Elis Greenwood, Robbie Hawkins, Ellis Howell, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarmain, Tom Johnson, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Joe Marshman, McKinley Parsons, Tom Pugh, Jack Reilly, Harry Whittaker, Dewi Williams and Jake Williams.

JS

Llantwit Major junior football round-up

Both Llantwit Major under-14 and under-16 teams beat Sully Sports in their Cup semi-finals on Saturday at Barry Sports Centre.

The under-14 side won 5-1 with an excellent performance in the bumpy, windy conditions. Richard Stephens, Kristian Jones and Will Perkins scored the goals to see their team through to the Cup final at Jenner Park, Barry on Sunday, April 29, kick-off 10.15am

Meanwhile, on a nearby pitch the under-16 side also beat Sully Sports in a much closer encounter 1-0, with the winner scored by Ed Howley in the first half.

Sully, despite trying very hard, rarely troubled the Major and it was Llantwit who missed further chances to put the game out of their opponents' reach.

The final will again be played at Jenner Park on Sunday, May 6, kick-off 1.15pm

Back in Llantwit, the under-12A team were beating Holton Road 4-0 with another good performance to keep them on top of the league.

Llantwit's goals were shared between Dan Williams, Morgan Gore, Bevan Howell and Angus Mitchell.

Ryan Malton and Rhys Richards scored for the under-12B in their 8-2 home defeat against Glenbrook Dragons.

The under-13A staged a remarkable comeback against Cadoxton Imps B at Barry Sports Centre. Trailing the Imps by 2-0 going into the final quarter, Leo Kelly pulled a goal back before Josh Morgan snatched a late equaliser to make it 2-2 and a share of the points.

Back at Windmill Lane, the Under-13B side beat visitors Park Lions 3-1; again it was a good performance from the lads, who scored through Dan Vickers, Matthew Reynolds and Nick Vincent.

The under-15 team visited Penarth Town and found their hosts much too good as they lost 7-0.

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Family Notices

BLICK
Ronald

Loving husband of the late Peggy, dear uncle, cousin and friend will be sadly missed.
Funeral Service at Margam Crematorium on Wednesday, 11th April 2012 at 12 noon.
Family flowers only.

KING
Stephen John

Peacefully on March 27th at UHW, Cardiff, Stephen of Rhoose. Dearly loved father of Stephanie and Jessica and stepfather of Jackie and Sion, much loved by all his grandchildren. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon.
Funeral Wednesday, April 11th, service and cremation 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

BRADLEY
Liz

The families of Colin Bradley and the late Hubert Thomas wish to thank relatives and friends for their kindness and sympathy shown during the recent sad loss of Liz, also for the many cards and messages that they have received.
Thanks also to Thomas Brothers funeral directors for their consideration and help.

O'LEARY
Peter

The O'Leary Family would like to thank all friends and relatives for all their cards, donations and floral tributes on the recent passing of their beloved Peter.

A very special thank you to the Harley Davidson Chapter who turned out in force and to all the doctors and nurses who helped to nurse Peter in his final weeks.

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Anniversaries

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x x x x

Happy 100th Birthday

WINNIE HUISH
on April 8th, 2012
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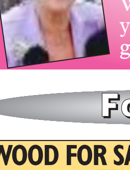
Lots of love, Nina & Pete and all the family in Llantwit Major x x x

WENDY HAVARD

Happy Birthday Mum!



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VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Vale of Glamorgan Council intends after the expiry of the period mentioned below to apply to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation of the byelaws made by the Council.

On 7th March 2012 Vale of Glamorgan Council ("the Council") passed a resolution that the provisions of Part VIII of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 shall apply to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The new model byelaws will ensure the medical risks associated with acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis are effectively controlled and reflect current infection control advice and industry best practice.

The byelaws have been made under section 14 and 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

Copies of the byelaws will be kept at the offices of the Council at: **Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.**

The byelaws will be open to inspection without payment on any weekday during the usual office hours for one calendar month from the date of the first publication of this notice. Copies of the byelaws will also be supplied on receipt of an application accompanied by a fee of £2.68 for each copy.

Any objection to the application for the confirmation of the byelaws may be made by letter (no later than one week after the closing date for inspection) and addressed to: **Byelaws on acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis, Health Protection Division, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ**

First publication date: 5th April 2012

Further information is available at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or by contacting the Licensing Section on 01446 709105 or email Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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DEDDF LLYWODRAETH LEOL (DARPARIAETHAU AMRYWIOL) 1982

HYSBYSIR TRWY HYN BOD Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn bwriadu gwneud cais i Weinidogion Cymru am gadarnhad o'r is-ddeddfau a wnaed gan y Cyngor wedi i'r cyfnod isod ddod i ben.

Ar 7 Mawrth 2012, pasiodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg ("y Cyngor") gynnig y bydd darpariaethau Rhan VIII Deddf Llywodraeth Leol (Darpariaethau Amrywiol) 1982 yn berthnasol i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg.

Bydd yr is-ddeddfau enghreifftiol newydd yn sicrhau bod y peryglon meddygol sy'n gysylltiedig ag aciwbigo, tat io, lliwio croen lled-barhaol, gwanu cosmetig ac electrolysis yn cael eu rheoli'n effeithiol ac yn adlewyrchu arferion gorau'r diwydiant a chyngor cyfredol ar reoli heintiau.

Lluniwyd yr is-ddeddfau o dan adrannau 14 ac 15 Deddf Llywodraeth Leol (Darpariaethau Amrywiol) 1982.

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Dyddiad cyhoeddi cyntaf: 5 Ebrill 2012

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael yn www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk neu drwy gysylltu â'r Adran Drwyddedu ar 01446 709105 neu e-bostio Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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Fog doesn't cool the on-track action at Llandow Karting Club

THE second round of Llandow Kart Club's summer championship was blessed with a 79-strong entry on a weekend of warm sunshine when even a coastal fog – which threatened to obscure the furthest reaches of the circuit ahead of the finals – could not cool the action on-track.

The Bambino class boasted a couple of additions over the February meeting, but that did not stop Jakob Chamberlain and Shayne Clarke from dominating the heats.

The same pair proved closely matched in the final outing of the day, with Clarke taking the honours by less than a tenth of a second. Jack Broughton was next up, ahead of Brooklyn Thomas, Oliver Thomas and Owain Rees.

The combined Cadet classes again provided a fine sight as no fewer than 25 karts took to the track during the day.

Tom Rawlings twice led the way in Comer, with Lewis Griffiths taking the other heat, before Rawlings edged the battle in the main event, leading Griffiths across the line by 0.6 seconds – with the best of the Honda-powered karts between them.

Honda honours were shared between Ross Thomas, Ethan Ling and Joshua Martin in the heats, before Thomas returned to top spot in the final.

Daniel Thomas claimed second place in class, just ahead of Ling and Alex Rees, while Hugo Holmes also came home ahead of Martin.

All four drivers from February's opener returned to do battle in Honda Junior, but Ben Stevens still proved unbeatable, winning each heat and the final by an average of 10 seconds.

Tom Ford and Thomas Croydon shared the role of runner-up in the heats, before Croydon cruised to second place in the final.

While the lone Minimax entrant moved to run with the Junior Max class, Junior TKM had the track to itself, Ross Chell claiming victory in each of the three heats.

Ryan Edwards and Louis Griffith-Walker shared second place in the qualifying races, before the former emerged as Chell's biggest rival in the final.

However, when their battle got too close, Chell was left as a spectator as Griffith-Walker came through to claim the victory. Phillips was ideally placed to inherit second place, ahead of Niall Williams.

Junior Rotax saw the emergence of Rob Ellis as frontrunner in the absence of Steven Handford, the Minimax graduate winning the day's four races. Novice Toby Allen claimed second each time, and closed the margin with every outing, eventually coming home just 0.4secs shy of Ellis in the final.

Thomas Stride claimed the final place on the podium, as he had in two of the three heats, with fellow rookies Elliot Hagerty and Oliver O'Flaherty battling throughout.

At first glance, reigning champion Simon Evans appeared to have things mostly his own way in Senior Honda, despite having to settle for fourth in heat two as, in his own words, things got "a little physical".

Order was restored in the main event, as Evans and main rival Gareth Lewis moved to the front, only for Lewis to spin in front of the pack exiting The Dell.

Emerging unscathed, the multiple champion raced back through the pack to claim third place, but could not deny Danny Griffiths the runners-up spot behind Evans.

The returning Ferdinand Ball – who hopes to compete at as many rounds as possible in 2012 – claimed fourth, ahead of Nicholas Rees and Jamie Warren, as the class again boasted a double-figure entry.

Senior Rotax numbers were also healthy, with 15 runners across two weight classes, but Josh Collings, who similarly dominated the opening round in February, was in no mood to share the honours, claiming three wins on the day; only ceding top spot to David Entwistle in heat two by a single second.

Unstoppable in the final, Collings romped away to win by five seconds from Chris Davis, while Entwistle rounded out his most successful weekend in the class by holding on to third from Matthew Dowers. Sebastian Hutchinson rounded out the top five ahead of Dilip Singh.

Wayne Stone again took control of the Max 177 class, winning on each outing over regular rival Simon Wheeler and newcomer Ian Hawksworth.

Results:

BAMBINO
1. Shayne Clarke (Zip)
2. Jakob Chamberlain (Birel)
3. Jack Broughton (Birel)

CADET COMER
1. Tom Rawlings (Zip)
2. Lewis Griffiths (Zip)
3. Kieron Clarke (Zip)

CADET HONDA
1. Ross Thomas (Wright)
2. Daniel Thomas (Project One)
3. Ethan Ling (Project One)

JUNIOR HONDA
1. Ben Stevens (7Kart)
2. Thomas Croydon (Jade)
3. Tom Ford (Biz)

JUNIOR TKM
1. Louis Griffith-Walker (Jade)
2. Joe Phillips (Jade)
3. Niall Williams (Intrepid)

MINI MAX
1. Jodie Handford (Tonykart)

JUNIOR ROTAX
1. Rob Ellis
2. Toby Allen (CRG)
3. Thomas Stride (CRG)

SENIOR HONDA
1. Simon Evans (7Kart)
2. Danny Griffiths (MS)
3. Gareth Lewis (7Kart)

SENIOR ROTAX
1. Josh Collings (CRG)
2. Chris Davis (CRG)
3. David Entwistle (Kosmic)

ROTAX 177
1. Wayne Stone (Tonykart)
2. Simon Wheeler (CRG)
3. Ian Hawksworth (Gillard)

Craig Llewellyn

Nick wins with Tin Pot Man!

OGMORE'S Nick Williams, who had a hat-trick at the recent Glamorgan Hunt steeplechases, landed the opener at Taunton last Thursday on the Evan Williams-trained Tin Pot Man which came home two and three quarter lengths ahead of Rifleman.

Later in the day, Tim Vaughan won with Caravel, which went off the 5-4 favourite, and was ridden by Richard Johnson.

Both Williams and Vaughan had across the card doubles as at Ludlow Vaughan won with Postmaster and Williams with Court Minstrel.

Postmaster was ridden by Vaughan's promising young amateur rider Bradley Gibbs and Court Minstrel by Paul Moloney.

Matthew Barber, who also rides out for aughan, was successful on Sirrel Griffiths' U B Careful, which sadly dropped dead on his way to the winner's enclosure.

Meanwhile, Timeform has launched their latest 'Horses to Follow' publication, containing 50 of the best prospects for 2012 chosen by Timeform's experts, plus big-name interviews and much, much more. It's out now in good time for the Guineas, and still only £8.95. **BRIAN LEE**

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GEM sport

Cowbridge RFC takes things to the wire as end of season looms

LAST Saturday Cowbridge, with good support, travelled the short journey to Waterton Cross to take on South Wales Police.

Cowbridge secured a good 15-37 win – with another vital bonus point.

They opened brightly with a series of attacks but the first points came from a penalty for outside half Carwyn Morgan after six minutes, but a penalty five minutes later brought South Wales Police level.

Cowbridge scored an excellent try on the 18 minute mark when following a good lineout and maul, No8 and captain Ross Llewellyn broke up the right wing and passed inside to scrum half Matt Pound.

He set it up for the ball to sweep across the field and centre Huw Llewellyn to score under the sticks and Morgan to add the extras.

South Wales Police were certainly up for it and just minutes later after a series of drives their prop crashed over for a converted try to again level the scores.

The game swung back and fore with Cowbridge full back Blaine Bonnin-Ward making several excellent breaks, then with about seven minutes to half-time, Cowbridge attacked up the right wing with Matt Logsden nearly over.

From the scrum Cowbridge were again nearly over the try line, but a penalty was given that Cowbridge took as a scrum.

No8 Llewellyn picked up and drove on and then a drive from prop David Popham and then second row Carwyn Davies saw Davies crash over for a converted try. SWP just missed with a penalty to give a half time score of 10-17.

Five minutes into the second half and fly half Morgan pushed the score out to 10-20 with a penalty.

The Cowbridge front row of Popham, Luke Adams and Jon Phillips were exerting pressure in the scrum. Second row Steve Birchenough stole a couple of lineouts, but Cowbridge's handling was poor with numerous dropped passes.

After a take against the head in the scrum Morgan dropped a fine goal. Five minutes later SWP tried to take a quick penalty in their own half but they knocked on.

Pound was quick to seize on the ball and jink through from 30 metres out; Morgan added the extras.

There was a quick resonse from SWP as they moved the ball with good handling to their right wing to score an unconverted try.

When Cowbridge did move the ball well they were met with an ironic cheer from their supporters.

SWP had several familiar faces in their line up and a strong No8 to drive them forward. Cowbridge were desperate for their fourth try and a bonus point and made changes for a set scrum with just minutes to go.

Scrum half Pound picked up and went for the line; replacement second row Alex Lewis tried but with his second attempt Pound got over the line for his second try.

The conversion was a piece of rare skill from Morgan near the right touchline; he ran up but the ball toppled over. He picked it up, steadied himself and then dropped a 40 metre conversion to bring a final score of 15-37.

The victory was laid by the forwards while, apart from some individual pieces of skill, the backs dropped far too much ball, let's hope that it was just a bad day.

It was good to see Richie Howson back in a Cowbridge shirt after a long lay-off through injury and with each game outside half Carwyn Morgan is getting back to where he was before his injury.

Many thanks to all the supporters who came to watch – it was a big boost. One of you may be in for a prize at the end of the season.

Cowbridge now have four games left, playing two teams who have beaten them this season.

Each game will need to be played as if it is a cup final starting this Saturday – home against Cefn Cribwr.

In a nutshell, the players owe themselves, the coaches and supporters a full-blooded committed performance after the poor show up in Cefn.

Kick off is at 2.30pm and again, all support would be very welcome.

The following Saturday the team are away to Blaengarw, while on April 21 they are home again to Rhigos.

The youth team are also due to be home this Saturday to Llandaff North; all available players are needed for these last few games to make this a memorable season.

RV/RK

Squash team keep up the good form and pile on points

COWBRIDGE A Bar 44 continued their recent good form to pile on the points in their efforts to secure a promotion place back to South Wales League Division 1 East.

Their most recent exploits earned them an 18-point haul against bottom team Llantrisant B (match win 4-1, 18-6). There are now nine points between the "44 A's" and second placed St Mellons B with two matches remaining before the campaign concludes.

Week 12 of the spring season saw Llantrisant B visit the Athletic Ground courts with not much more than pride to salvage from this programme's fixtures, having only seen two victories and sitting well adrift at the foot of the Division 2 East league table.

The match began in the conventional way with each team's ranked 5 and 4 players starting proceedings.

The evergreen Richard Ford stepped up from his B team berth to help out in the absence of the injured (calf strain) regular No5 Niall Sloan, and the ever-present Simon Payne was set to do battle at 4.

Ford secured the first two games in a very competitive match opener until, that is, the younger legs of his opponent seemed to be carrying the latter around the court in a more fluid style.

Ford seemed to back off, not attacking the Llantrisant player's serve as much and so to his detriment going down 5-11 in the fifth – points on the board nonetheless!

No. 4 Payne stepped up to the plate to take on a deceptively mobile fourth string in what proved to be another roller-coaster match from the Llantwit Major-based player – scores were 7-11, 11-6, 9-11, 11-8 until the decider, which was also nip and tuck until Llantrisant's Ryland Cooper pulled away to lead 7-10.

Never underestimate the fighting qualities of Mr Payne, who took all the remaining rallies to win 12-10 – man of the match indeed!

Garfield Leask (No3) had plenty of gas in the tank to despatch his opponent for 11-8, 11-7, 11-8 – match in favour of Cowbridge 2-1 with Jon Bisson (2) and Nick Guard (1) to round off the evening's event.

Bisson produced the usual high-energy, hard running game in the first game to just edge it 12-10.

This non-stop retrieval game seemed to take its toll on the LLantrisant No2 as he didn't appear to show for the second game - 11-3 to JB.

However, the young left-hander came out guns blazing for the third and displayed some fine racket skills to take it 10-12 and nearly snuck the fourth, but Bisson triumphed 14-12 – match won with Guard to add to the bonus at No1.

This he did in commanding style over another veteran campaigner in Coleson Oldfield – 11-8, 11-5, 11-7.

Cowbridge A travel to sixth placed Old Pens A in their search for points to gain second place in Week 13 to round off at home to relegation candidates Newport E the following week.

The B's and C's programmes have finished but they are awaiting a decision about league restructuring.

Squash club membership details from Dave Garnham (07721 533443) or other info from russ.watts@btopenworld.com **RW**

Border raids by Vale trainers!

EVAN WILLIAMS, who trains at Llancarfan, and Tim Vaughan, who trains at Aberthin, both saddled winners at Hereford last week.

Tim was successful in the novices' handicap hurdle with seven-year-old *Mrs Peacock* (Aidan Coleman) and Evan with seven-year-old *Bruslin*i (T J O'Brien) in the novices'chase.

The former won by a head from *Drummers Drumming* and the latter scored by 12 lengths from *Earth Planet*.

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